Egay's toll: Mother, 2 young sons drown in Samar

Story Below, Col. 2

Sandigan told Erap case 'one in a million'

ONE-IN-A MILLION

By Armand N. Nocum

OUTSIDE the courtroom, deposed President Joseph Estrada told reporters yesterday he never sought to be

SANDIGAN/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Terrorism, Suu Kyi top Asean agenda

PHNOM PENH—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations yesterday sought tougher measures to combat terrorism as the regional grouping and the United States prepared to endorse a five-point work plan that would include safeguarding shipping in the vital Malacca Strait.

At the start of the meeting of Asean for-

TERROR/ A16

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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RP drug users hit 3.4M

Barbers blames problem on cops involved in shabu trade

By Philip C. Tubeza, Michael Lim Ubac and Christian V. Esguerra

DESPITE a new anti-drugs law that sets stiff penalties, the number of drug users in the country has grown to 3.4 million, officials yesterday said.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, warned that the country could become Asia's drug capital in five years if the problem remained unchecked.

Contrary to official reports, drug use among Filipinos, particularly the youth, is increasing, according to Barbers.

"The drug situation is very alarming. Instead of the problem getting resolved, it is getting worse," Anselmo Avenido Jr., chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, said at the launching of the "Batang Iwas Droga (Bida)" program.

Avenido said 65 to 70 percent of inmates behind bars were there due to drug-related crimes.

He noted that there were only 20,000 drug users in 1972. Today, there are 1.8 million regular users and 1.6 million occasional users.

At a press briefing at the Senate, Barbers disclosed that even pedicab and tricycle drivers could now afford to buy *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) despite their meager incomes.

He pointed out that *shabu*, which is supplied mainly by China, could still readily enter the country.

"(Drug syndicates) have a lot of entry points. First the seaports and economic zones, then airports, post offices and the vast sea waters that we have," he said.

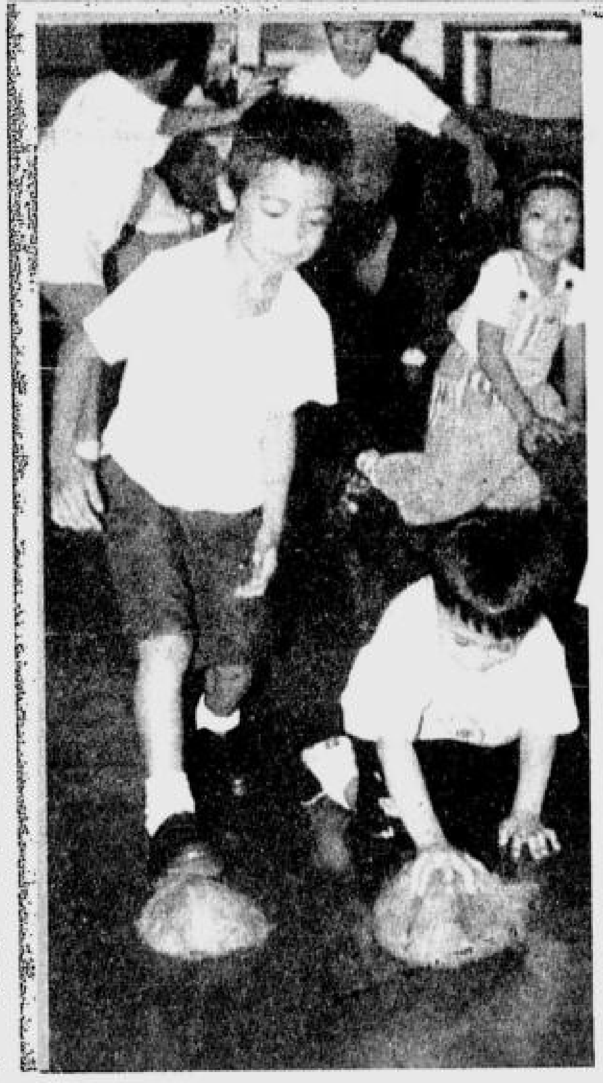
Barbers blamed policemen on the take for the proliferation of *shabu* in the country. "For as long as policemen are receiving bribes, this problem will not be solved," he said.

Some policemen are not only on the take, they themselves are into selling illegal drugs.

The Philippine National Police caught two of its men using and peddling banned substances over the weekend.

RP DRUG/ A15

NOEL DAYANG



WET, BRIGHT, FRIGHT

IT'S water under the chairs for students at the Navotas National High School. Is it the haircut? At right, a mother drags her son to the Moises Salvador Elementary School in Sampaloc, Manila. But at the Geronimo Elementary School, at left, also in Sampaloc, the day was literally made brighter and cleaner by these Grade I pupils.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

MILF doesn't want Salamat to head peace talks panel

THE MILF has finally rejected a government demand that its founder Salamat Hashim act as chief negotiator once the peace talks resume, the group's spokesperson said yesterday.

"This has been rejected, not by Salamat Hashim but the central committee of the MILF," the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's Eid Kabalu said on dzBB radio.

"That decision is final and cannot be changed by only one man," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, through presidential adviser Renato de Villa, demanded last week that Salamat, the MILF chair, sit at the negotiating table.

But Kabalu accused the government of setting "too many preconditions" to resume the peace talks and described the conditions as irrelevant.

"It is as if they are just looking for a way out to escape their moral responsibility," he said.

Ms Macapagal agreed to study the resumption of peace talks following a meeting in Tokyo with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad earlier this month. She later named presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita to head the government peace panel.

But she has refused to call off a mili-

MILF/ A15

Paglas says sorry for giving in to 'yearnings'

By Volt Contreras

IBRAHIM Paglas III got carried away.

The ex-mayor who read a letter from the office of MILF chair Salamat Hashim in last Friday's "sanctuary of peace" rites in Pagulangan town in Maguindanao, said yesterday he had given in to the "yearnings" of his heart when he failed to read aloud a crucial part of the letter.

The result was widespread confusion over the purported withdrawal of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from four towns in Maguindanao and another town in North Cotabato—a pullout which MILF officials vigorously denied.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, who attended the ceremony in Barangay Inug-ug, told the INQUIRER that Paglas, a nephew of Salamat's, omitted a phrase in the letter which said the MILF would not operate in those areas "on that day"—meaning last Friday, when Inug-ug declared itself a peace zone in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino.

The reports prompted Tabang Min-

PAGLAS/ A15

NBI doctor in bribery rap released

By Luige del Puerto

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation official who was sacked after he was caught receiving some P200,000 in bribe money has been released.

The NBI freed Dr. Maximo Reyes, head of the agency's Medico-Legal unit, after agents failed to file appropriate graft charges against him within 36 hours, according to Deputy Director for Technical Services Alejandro Tenerife.

Tenerife was Reyes' direct superior.

"Dr. Reyes is not in detention. He was released because we have not filed the appropriate charges against him yet," Tenerife told reporters.

"Under the law, we had to release him within the next 36 hours if there is no charge yet. Otherwise, we will be charged with illegal detention," he said.

Tenerife explained that the NBI could not file graft charges as yet because the

NBI/ A16

Mother, 2 sons drown in Samar

Storm 'Egay' leaves 11,000 stranded; first day of classes suspended

By the PDI Visayas, Southern Luzon and Northern Luzon Bureaus

A MOTHER, her two young sons and a man drowned before dawn Sunday in Catbalogan, Samar, while some 11,000 people were stranded at different ports in Bicol and Eastern Visayas as tropical storm "Egay" (international name: Soudelor) whipped the country.

To the north of Samar, a twister destroyed some 20 houses in Barangay Buenavista, a coastal village in Castilla, Sorsogon, on Saturday.

Further north, three lakes in Camarines Sur overflowed. Classes in all levels in Cagayan and Isabela were suspended yesterday, the first day of classes for public elementary and high schools, because of heavy rains and strong winds.

Because of flooding, classes in elementary and secondary levels in almost all of Albay's private and public schools were also suspended.

Signal No. 3 was hoisted over Cagayan and Isabela as the storm passed 130 km east of Casiguran town with winds of 115 kph and gusts of up to 145 kph. By this morning, the storm was forecast to be 300 km northeast of Aparri. It would be within 60 km of Okinawa in southern Japan by Thursday morning, the weath-

MOTHER/ A0

RP, not US, will decide on GMA bid–Ricciardone

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Only two weeks after US President George W. Bush reportedly encouraged President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in 2004, the new US line is: "It doesn't matter."

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone told reporters here on Saturday that the view of the United States did not matter because Ms Macapagal's election plan was something for Filipinos to decide "and not Americans."

"Whoever will be the President of the Philippines in 2004, we will respect that decision," Ricciardone said.

The report that Bush had endorsed Ms Macapagal was sourced, not from a US official, but a political personality close to her. The source had said that, at the close of the US state visit, Bush reportedly urged Ms Macapagal to reconsider her decision not to run by telling her "Madame President, women and politicians are entitled to change their minds."

In this city, however, Ricciardone noted that the Bush administration "clearly admires" Ms Macapagal.

Ricciardone, who is here on a four-day private visit, took time out from his hectic schedule to pursue his passion for scuba diving in the internationally-renowned Apo Island off the coast of Dauin town, Negros Oriental, on Saturday.

The overcast skies and slight rains did not stop Ricciardone and his daughter Chiara from doing three day dives and one night dive.

Ricciardone is a certified advanced open water diver while his daughter had

RP/ A16

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon will have stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. Central Luzon and the rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas. Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/17/03

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Monsoon Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

POEA working vs victims' interests?

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE AMERICAN lawyer of the Filipino workers who were killed or injured in a cruise ship explosion in Miami, Florida, last month has decried the pressure allegedly being exerted by a Philippine government agency on the victims and their survivors to abandon the multibillion-dollar lawsuits he has filed in their behalf in the United States.

Lawyer William "Bill" Huggett has filed suits seeking $30 million in compensatory damages and $10 billion in punitive damages in behalf of Abdi Comedia of Imus, Cavite, and nine other Filipino victims of the blast.

The cases were filed in the 11th Judicial Circuit Court of Miami-Dade County in Florida. The Miami-based Norwegian Cruise Lines, operator of the ship, was given until June 28 to respond to the suits, Huggett said.

Six Filipino crewmen of the SS Norway died and five others were injured when the liner's boiler exploded last May 25 as the ship was docking in Miami. None of its more than 2,100 passengers was injured.

Huggett charged that the cruise line, working through the recruitment agencies that had hired the workers, which he identified as CF Sharp and Magsaysay, was using the POEA to make the victims withdraw the US cases.

"The cruise line, acting through the POEA, is putting terrible pressure on the widows and relatives of the victims, asking them to abandon the American court," Huggett claimed in an overseas call to the INQUIRER.

He said the relatives were being told by the POEA to fire their American lawyers and file the compensation cases with the government agency instead, otherwise they would not get burial benefits.

Huggett said he would not speculate about why the POEA was pushing the relatives to drop the US suits, but he pointed out that the agency and the manning companies had been working together for a long time.

Shortly after the accident, Huggett filed the first suit seeking $1 million in compensatory damages and $1 billion in punitive damages for Comedia, one of the injured.

Later, he said, he filed suits in behalf of nine other Filipino victims, bringing the total amount of the suits to $30 million for compensatory damages and $10 billion for punitive damages.

The compensatory suit is to pay the victims for their loss, while the punitive suit is meant to punish the cruise line.

Huggett said it would be disadvantageous for the victims to file their cases with the POEA instead of pursuing the lawsuits already filed in the US, because they would only get a fraction of what they could win in the Florida court.

"I know from at least 25 years of experience that they will get no more than one-tenth or one-hundredth of what they could get in the American court. That's the bottom line," Huggett said.

Huggett said Norwegian Cruise Lines has a long history of dangerous engine room failures.

He claimed to have represented a Polish seaman who was injured in an explosion in the same boiler room in 1997. He said the case was settled out of court for $2.5 million.

The 42-year-old Norway is said to be the longest, if not the largest, passenger ship afloat. It is said to be longer than the ill-fated Titanic, which sank on April 14, 1912, killing thousands.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach the POEA by press time yesterday. A man, who answered the phone at CF Sharp, advised the INQUIRER to call back today.

Mindanao refugee death toll rises to 215

By Volt Contreras

CIVILIAN casualties in the Mindanao conflict since January have reached 215 as of the weekend, a fifth of them babies and children who succumbed to disease inside refugee camps, according to figures released yesterday by the Department of Social Welfare.

DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said 180 other people have been injured in bombings and crossfires between Moro rebels and government troops.

A six-page list of the dead, which Soliman furnished the INQUIRER, contained the names of up to 43 infants and children below 10 years who had died of easily treatable diseases like measles, pneumonia, diarrhea and dehydration. Almost all died while in evacuation centers.

The list also included adult victims who either died of disease or were caught in the war zone. Soliman said only 158 of the 215 fatalities have been identified.

A bit of encouraging news: The DWSD chief said 36,454 of the 77,249 families displaced by the fighting have returned to their communities. The remaining 40,795 are still in 135 evacuation centers in 11 provinces and three cities.

Of the returnees, 15 percent have received the government's Emergency Shelter Assistance of up to P5,000 per family to help repair their homes.

A bigger package called Core Shelter Assistance for those with more serious needs entitles beneficiaries to a maximum of P25,000 per family. Soliman said at least 200 houses have been rebuilt under this second aid scheme.

Most of the damaged homes, totaling 5,967, are in the towns of Pikit, North Cotabato, and Pagagawan and Pagalungan in Maguindanao.

The DSWD uses Jan. 21 as its reference point for the figures. Soliman said it was the day the military intensified pursuit operations against kidnap-for-ransom groups plaguing the South.

Relief and rehabilitation efforts since then have cost the DSWD around P60 million, with local government units spending P6.2 million, and nongovernment organizations pouring in another P6.5 million.

Phase 2 of Meralco refund set

THE MANILA Electric Co. and the Energy Regulatory Commission have agreed on the terms of the second phase of the P30-billion refund plan, to cover customers consuming between 101 kilowatt-hours and 300 kWh a month, ERC chair Manuel Sanchez said yesterday.

Sanchez said Phase 2 would begin as soon as Phase 1 of the refund, covering 1.4 customers consuming up to 100 kWh, is completed in late July. Meralco said the second phase would start in August.

"Phase 2 will benefit 1.7 million (residential) customers and it will cost Meralco P4.5 billion," Sanchez said after a meeting with Meralco officials yesterday.

Yesterday, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said cash constraints may force the implementation of Phase 2 to be extended up to next year.

"Our ability to (shell out the refund money) actually depends on our creditors," Francisco said in an interview. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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OSAKA	230	365	JEDDAH	383	706
FUKUOKA	290	440	ABU DHABI	323	700
NAGOYA	216	380	BAHRAIN	308	700
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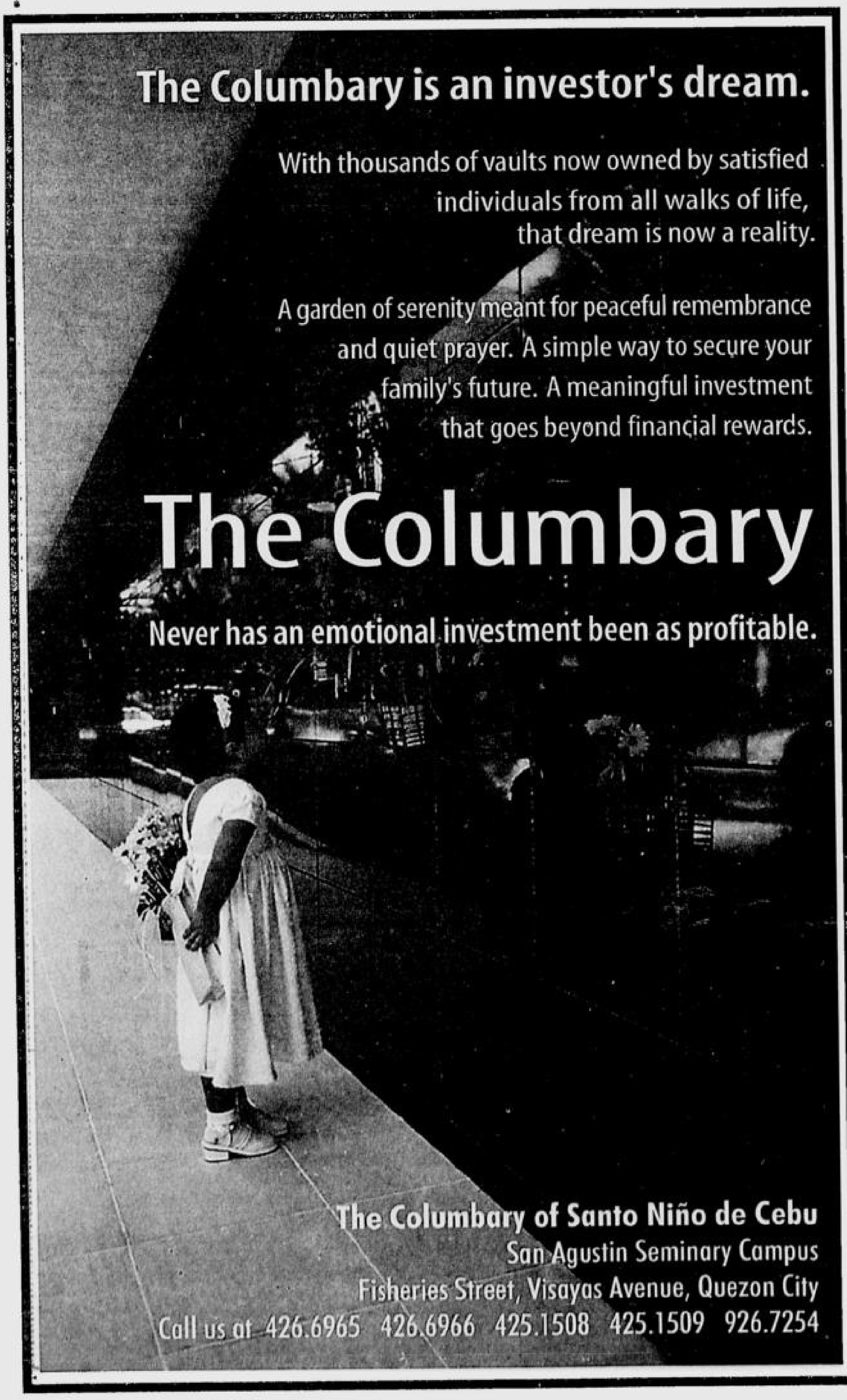

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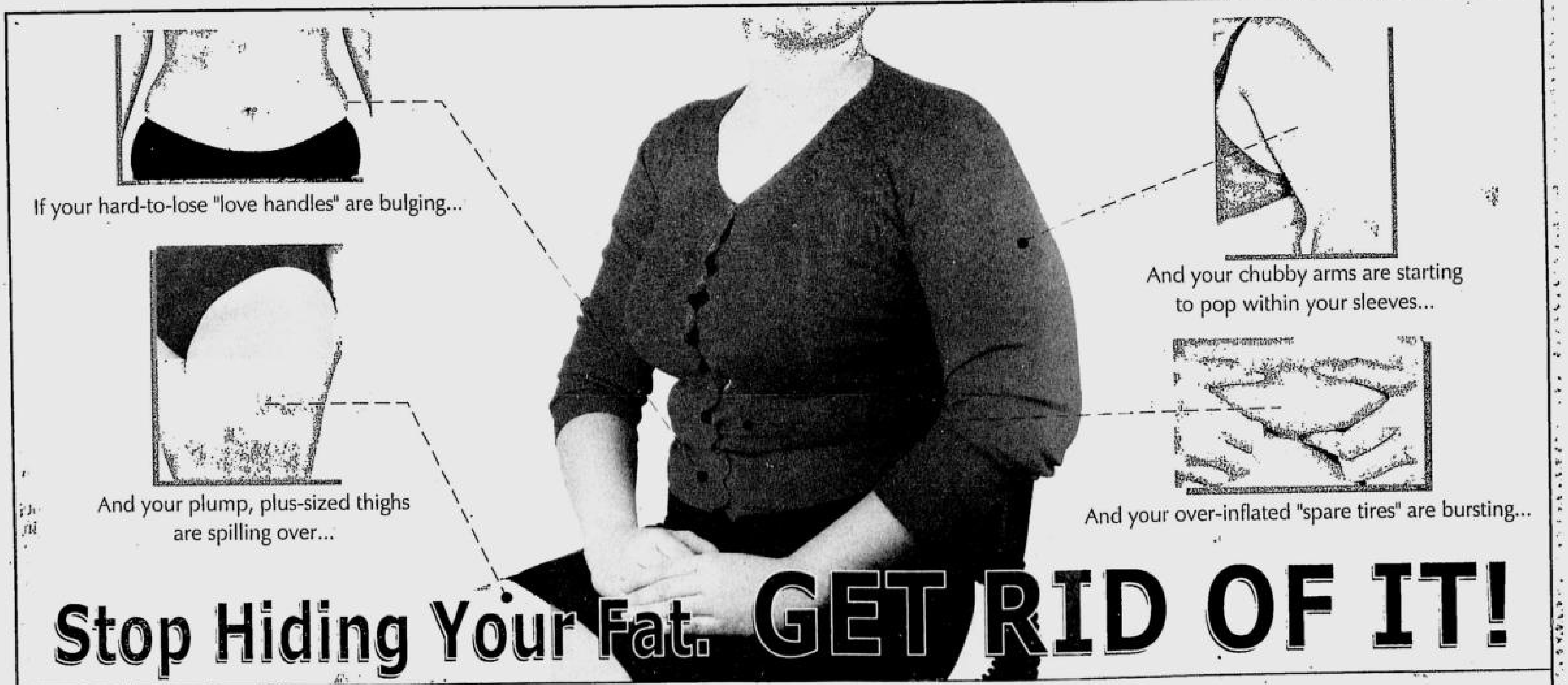

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2 Pinoy hostages in Liberia ransomed

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

LIBERIAN rebels have reportedly freed two Filipinos, who were among several foreigners taken captive in a rebel attack on the capital of Monrovia last week, after their Lebanese employer paid a $100,000 ransom.

ABS-CBN radio reported yesterday that brothers Renato and Julito Carpentero were released on Saturday, quoting another brother Edgardo who works in Cameroon, also in Africa.

But as of yesterday, the Department of Foreign Affairs had yet to receive a report on the release of the Carpenteros.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the Philippine embassy in Nigeria was still verifying the report on the brothers' release.

The DFA last week sent a four-member consular mission to negotiate the Filipinos' release without payment of ransom.

The Carpentero brothers were employed by the Lebanese mining company TCC. They were seized along with a number of Lebanese nationals in Maryland County on June 10 when rebels fighting the regime of Liberian President Charles Taylor attacked the capital of Monrovia. Maryland County is a 10-hour drive from the capital.

ABS-CBN reported that the Filipinos were treated well while in captivity since they knew the rebels, having worked in Liberia for the past 21 years.

The rebels took their money and valuables but still demanded a $100,000 ransom, which was paid by their employer.

The Carpentero brothers, both married to Liberians, have reportedly been reunited with their families in Abijan in neighboring Ivory Coast.

Filipinos flee

The DFA, meanwhile, said two Filipinos working in Liberia arrived in Manila last Saturday aboard a KLM flight from Ghana.

Henry de Jesus, who worked at a Liberian bank, and Diosa Banal, a restaurant worker, were among six Filipinos who fled Liberia last week to escape the fighting.

The Philippine embassy in Nigeria said there were only 12 Filipinos in Liberia.

French troops have evacuated more than 500 foreigners as intense fighting between loyalist forces and rebels belonging to the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy broke out in Monrovia last June 9.

Church won't meddle in suit vs Bacani

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE CATHOLIC Church will take a hands-off stance in the case of embattled Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. when his accuser files formal charges against him in a criminal court.

Until that time comes, Bacani cannot be compelled to face any court outside the Church, said his spokesperson Msgr. Jesus Romulo-Rañada.

"Not even the Supreme Court" has the authority to investigate Church people without charges being filed in court, he said, adding that the Church has its own canon laws and lawyers to deal with such cases.

After Mass last Sunday at the Good Shepherd parish in Fairview, Quezon City, Rañada told the churchgoers they should not hesitate to approach the bishops if they had any complaints.

Canonical procedure

"If you have complaints against priests, go to the Apostolic Nuncio because he is the representative of the Vatican here. The Vatican is the one that will investigate the Church, not the Supreme Court," he said.

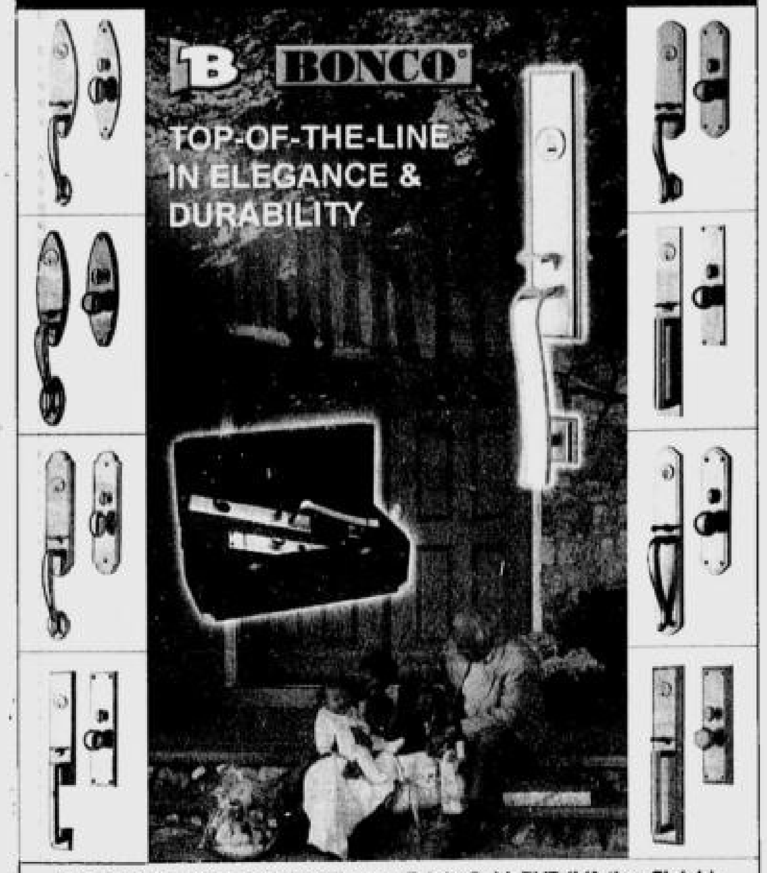
Rañada said the Bacani case was going through the prescribed "canonical procedure" which he described as a "quiet" process involving only the bishop, his accuser and witnesses.

"Common folks should understand that this is a case involving a man of the Church and . . . the woman is also a Catholic, so normally this would go through the canonical procedure," Rañada said in an interview.

Rañada said the papal nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Franco, had met with the complainant and spoken with "others who may know (about) the case."

Such cases involving bishops are investigated by the Vatican as all bishops fall under the jurisdiction of the Pope, he said.

Bacani was then called to give his side, and the nuncio later arranged for the complainant to confront him. The papal nuncio will be making his report based on this, Rañada said.



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FILSCAP gets a TRO against Concert Producer

The Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Inc. (FILSCAP) scored another victory in its struggle for recognition of composer's rights after it got a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) last Tuesday against Mareco Broadcasting Network, Inc., a radio broadcasting company and producer of Crossover Presents concerts.

In his Order dated June 10, 2003, Judge Reynaldo B. Daway of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 90 ordered Mareco, its officers, employees, agents and representatives and all persons acting under its authority or direction "to refrain or to desist from further publicly performing certain musical compositions written by the members of FILSCAP in the Crossover concert featuring Regine Velasquez and Kyla". The concert happened on June 11, 2003 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The TRO had forced Mareco to change the repertoire of said concert to ensure that it complied with the TRO or run the risk of being cited for contempt.

Among the songs identified in the TRO that Mareco is being prohibited from performing in its concerts are those recorded by Regine herself and composed by members of FILSCAP like George Canseco, Jose Mari Chan, Ogie Alcasid, Ryan Cayabyab, Rey Valera, Trina Belamide, Louie Ocampo, Mario Borje, among others.

FILSCAP was represented in the case by Atty. Halina V. Mina. Also present during the hearing on the TRO was FILSCAP's Chairman, George Canseco, and its monitoring team, Marie Jane Suarez and Imelda Cortez.

FILSCAP is an association of local composers, lyric-writers and music publishers that was established in 1965. As the sole composers' society that collectively administers the public performance of songs, it is to FILSCAP that a person or corporation desiring to publicly perform or authorize the public performance of music may make an application for a license. Under Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, TV and radio stations, hotels, restaurants, bars, dance halls, live performance venues and concert producers are under obligation to first secure a license from FILSCAP prior to any playing, airing or public performance by any other means. Last year, FILSCAP also successfully obtained a TRO against ABS-CBN Corporation for the network's public performance of songs composed by members of FILSCAP in its daily soap operas.

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Abu Sayyaf leader's 'personal photographer' takes last shot

THE MILITARY has captured the alleged personal photographer of top Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani during an operation in Sulu on Sunday morning, officials said yesterday.

Members and intelligence agents from the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade nabbed Arcen Balitong Jandul, alias Abu Jaafar, while conducting spotting operations at around 8 a.m. in Indanan.

Jandul is also a nephew of alleged Abu Sayyaf member Khair Muktar who was captured in Marawi City in September last year, officials said. He repeatedly used a video camera to "shoot" Janjalani.

"He's a big catch considering that he's a confidant of Janjalani," said Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala, Army spokesperson in a phone interview.

Janjalani was last spotted on Pilas island in Basilan last April.

Despite the $5-million bounty offered by the United States for their capture, Janjalani, Hamsiraji Sali, Isnilo Hapilon and Abu Sulaiman, alias Dr. Abu Pula, remain at large.

There are still some 300 Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu and 70 others in Basilan despite claims by the military that intensified operations against the bandit group since 2000 have reduced its strength. *TJ Burgonio*

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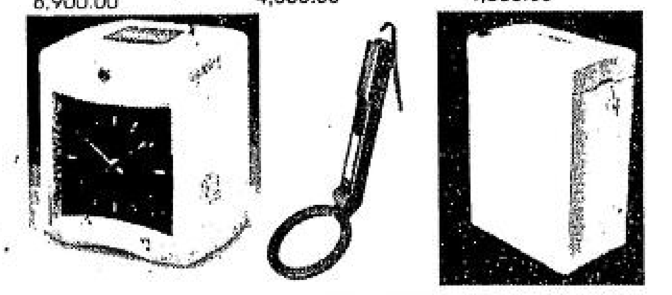

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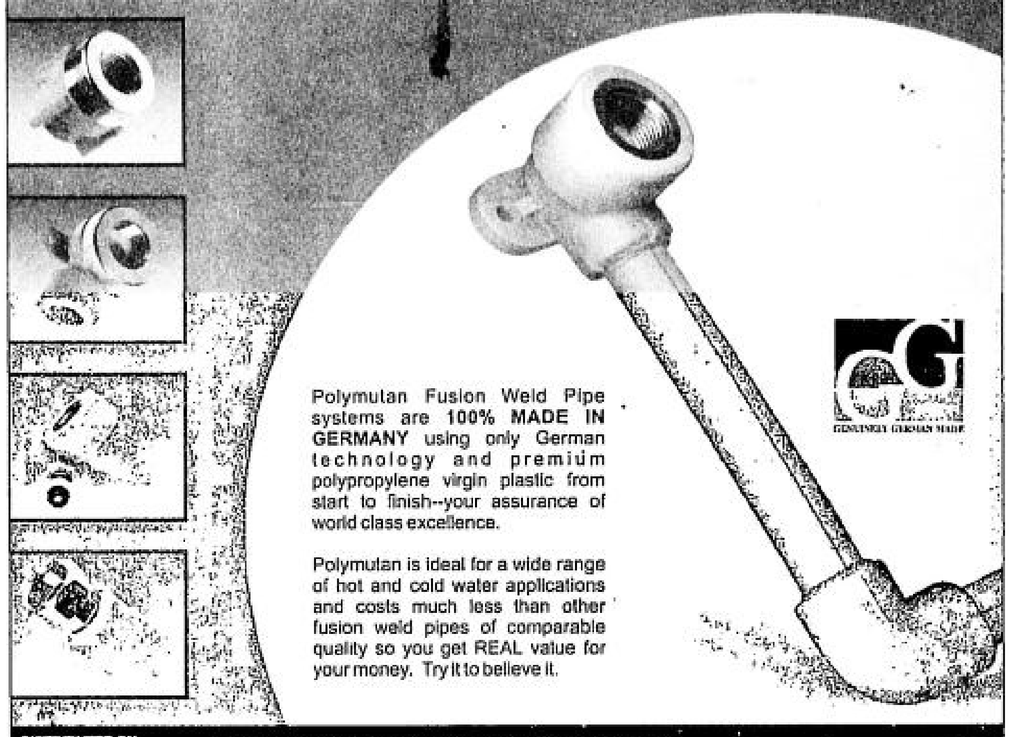

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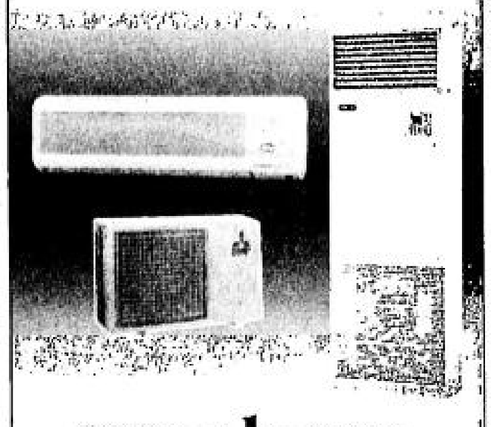

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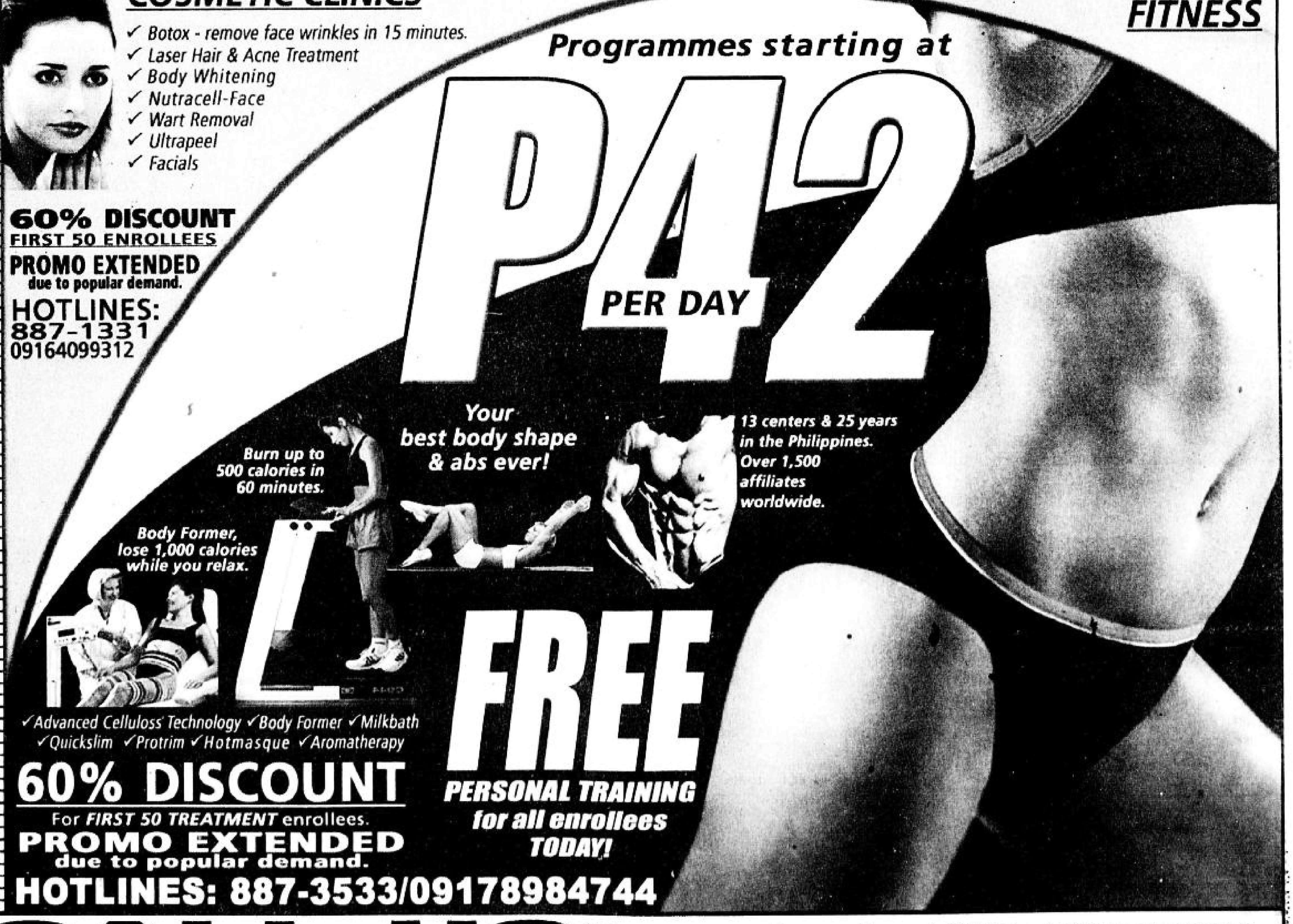

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Celibacy

EDITORIAL

THE CURRENT controversy over the sexual harassment charge against Bishop Teodoro Bacani has once again stirred discussion about the rule of celibacy for priests of the Catholic Church.

In the early Church the clergy practiced celibacy widely although there was no written rule requiring it. Priests, or those aspiring to be priests, obviously influenced by the personal example of Jesus Christ, felt an inner compulsion to forgo marriage or its practice if they were already married.

St. Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians (I Cor. vii: 32-35) extolled the virginal or celibate state. He said: "I should like you to be free of all worries. The unmarried man is busy with the Lord's affairs concerned with pleasing the Lord; but the married man is busy with this world's demands and occupied with pleasing his wife. This means he is divided."

St. Paul's advice apparently influenced those whose vocation called for undistracted service and devotion to God. But what was a matter of counsel to the clergy was gradually imposed by custom and tradition and finally by written legislation. By the time of Pope Gregory the Great (590-604), the rule of celibacy for the Western Church had been fixed.

At present, the law of celibacy covers all Catholic clerics in the major orders. It requires of the clergy perfect chastity, and any violation of the rule is considered a sacrilege. It prohibits the contracting of marriage or the use of marriage already contracted.

Not all persons in a religious vocation are technically celibate; the term celibate refers only to those for whom the unmarried state is the result of a sacred vow, an act of renunciation or a belief that it is preferable for a person because of his religious position or his degree of religious seriousness.

Celibacy in a church has accompanied an emphasis that regards the religious life as essentially different from the normal structures of society and the normal drives of human nature.

In the history of religions celibacy has functioned as a means of ritual purification. Essentially, celibacy requires a priest to be a "spiritual hermaphrodite" who does not need the other sex to be complete because he is an image of the sacred which is beyond external or human needs.

Celibacy is also a means of institutional control. It serves to set apart and perpetuate a special group—the clergy—that possesses greater control of religious institutions. In the celibate community, celibacy is advocated with the view that it contributes to the spiritual or moral advancement of individuals.

Some authors say that celibacy is probably derived from taboos that regarded sexual power as a rival to religious power, and the sexuality of the opposite sex as a polluting factor, especially in sacred or crisis situations. But celibacy is probably one factor that makes priests attractive to women—the "forbidden fruit" effect.

Celibacy has often been denounced as an impossible ideal or as a reflection on the divine vocation of marriage. St. Paul said to those who would be disciples of Christ: "Are you free of a wife? If so, do not go in search of one. Should you marry, however, you will not be committing a sin." Christ himself did not require his apostles to be celibate.

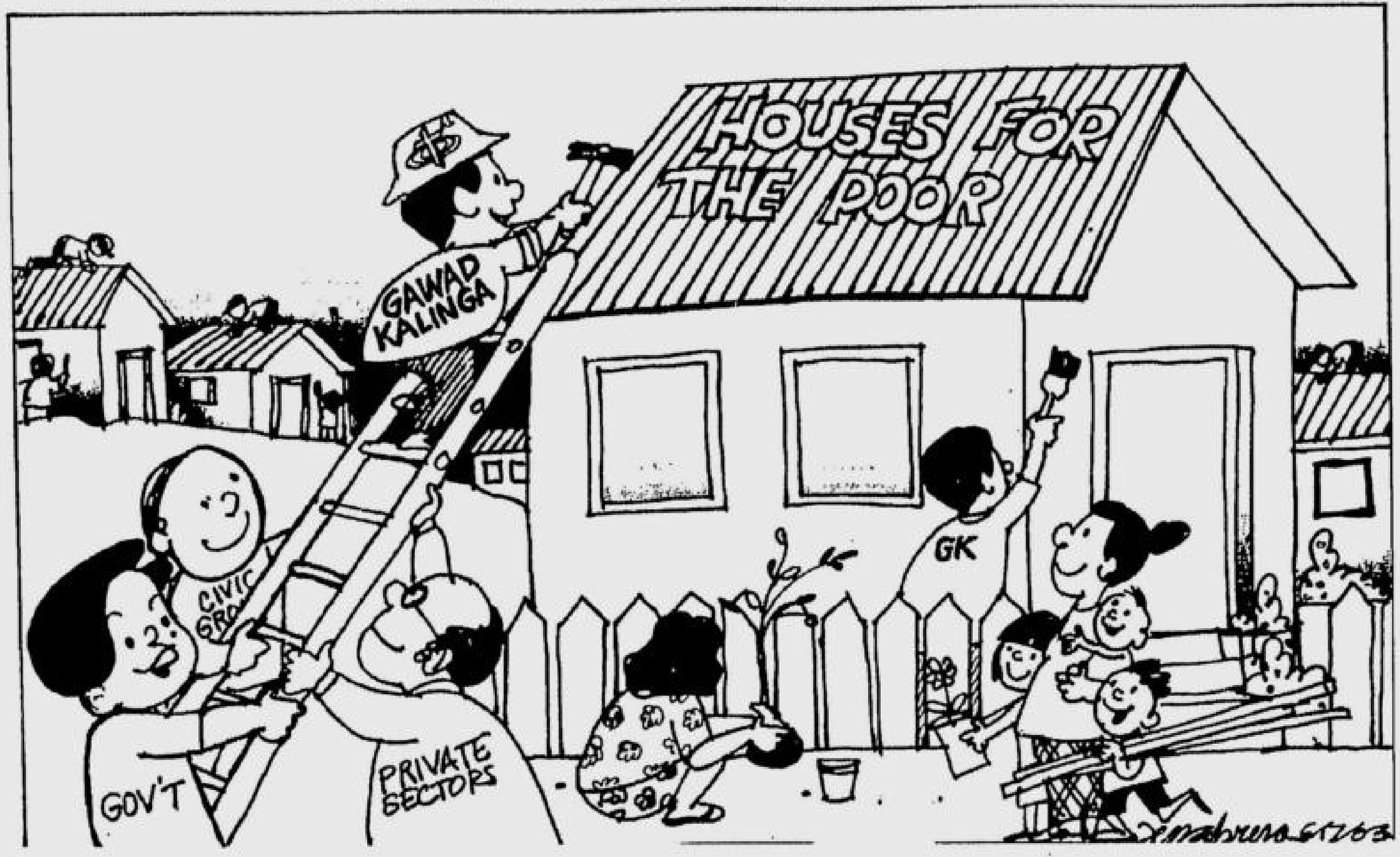
The Protestant churches do not require celibacy of their clergy. And it must be not just coincidence that there is a minimum of cases of sexual harassment involving Protestant pastors. Their natural urges find a legitimate outlet in the sacred institution of marriage.

On the other hand, the Catholic Church requires nearly superhuman self-control of its clergy. Sometimes the dam bursts, and so you have priests violating their vow of celibacy, sexually harassing, seducing, assaulting or even impregnating women parishioners.

Protestant pastors have demonstrated that it is possible to serve God with all your heart and still love a wife. The human heart has an amazing capacity for all kinds of love.

A person may find his religious calling so all-consuming that he may voluntarily avoid marriage. A good example of this type of person was John Chapman, "Johnny Appleseed," the Protestant mystic and wanderer of the American frontier who was not prohibited by his religion from marrying and yet remained unmarried because of his devotion to his calling.

It is no sure-fire guarantee, but if Catholic priests were given the option of marriage, the Church might see fewer cases of sexual harassment, seduction and unwanted pregnancies.



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As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

A NEW squatters' colony is sprouting up on the University of the Philippines campus along Commonwealth Avenue in Diliman, Quezon City. The squatters have fenced off with galvanized iron sheets a portion of UP's valuable Commonwealth property, in front of the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Hydraulic Research Center. Many shanties have already mushroomed inside this property.

Behind the squatters seems to be a syndicate armed with a fake title. The syndicate is subdividing the UP campus and selling rights for P15,000 and ownership for P100,000.

Ownership by UP of the campus has long been decided with finality by the Supreme Court but because this prime land is vacant, it is a very tempting target for squatters, landgrabbing syndicates and land speculators. This is the property that was almost turned over by UP to Ayala Land for development into a commercial and residential complex during the term of UP president Emil Javier. Despite the vigorous objections of UP students and nearby residents because of the traffic jams the shopping mall would bring, Javier and the Board of Regents would have gone through with the deal had not the Asian economic crisis caused the bottom to drop off the real estate market and Ayala dropped the project like a hot potato.

A very valuable but undeveloped, unused and unprotected piece of property of about 100 hectares is an irresistible attraction to squatters and land grabbers. Because of this danger, I had proposed that UP allow its development into a park by the Quezon City government, the Parks and Wildlife Office, the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation and environmental NGOs.

All of them were willing to transform it into a park at their own expense for the use of the public, on condition that anytime UP needed all or part of the property, the park would be returned to it. Anyway, not much would be needed to convert it into a park: cut the grass and weeds, plant tree saplings, put up concrete park benches, perhaps create a small pond for fish, ducks and geese. UP has already done that to the Sunken Garden, which is now being enjoyed by people living in and out of the Diliman campus.

Thus, while the university does not need the real estate for its use, it could be enjoyed by the public which is terribly starved for parks and open spaces. With the land turned into a park, opportunists would be discouraged from grabbing it for themselves.

But the present UP management is selfish. It did not want the government and well-meaning NGOs to touch it. So while it shooed away the law-abiding who wanted to help protect the property and enjoy it at the same time, the UP administration could not prevent the squatting syndicates from grabbing it.

UP should have learned from the spread of squatter colonies in several other parts of its Diliman campus. And it should have been forewarned by the entry of squatters into its Arboretum. The squatters cut some of the trees but since there were many trees and bushes in the Arboretum, they hid the squatter shanties. Either because UP officials couldn't see the shanties, or they were just lazy, indifferent and negligent, they saw no urgency in stopping the squatters.

Now UP is reaping the whirlwind. Emboldened by its inaction, syndicates have laid claim to a larger portion of the campus. One syndicate allegedly bought the rights of a certain Antonio Pael whose claim had long been dismissed by the Supreme Court, which also affirmed the ownership of UP. But squatters and syndicates have no respect for the Supreme Court and land titles.

And wonder of wonders, despite an order by the high court to lower courts to refrain from issuing injunctions and temporary restraining orders, Judge Rogelio Pizarro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, issued an injunction against UP and two other Arboretum claimants. Still the injunction did not give ownership to the claimant, a certain Luis Menor, a former UP security guard, who sold it to one Abdul Raof Dimaporo, who in turn subdivided it and sold it to Muslims.

UP has a security force that could have stopped the squatting while it was just starting. But it seems the only thing it can do is collect fees for stickers for vehicles entering the campus. After it has sold enough stickers, it throws open the UP gates to all vehicles, with or without stickers. It cannot stop rapes, fraternity rumbles and burglary inside the campus. So how can it have the stomach to stop squatters? In fact, one former security guard is behind the present rash of squatting.

UP also has a Task Force on Squatting, Community Housing and Utilities but it seems it is just as ineffective as the security force.

To make matters worse, the Philippine National Police under Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and the city government under Mayor Feliciano Belmonte refuse to lift a finger to help UP stop the anarchy going on under their noses. Of course, City Hall would avoid annoying squatters because they are voters, and the PNP would not risk exposing themselves to mayhem, and so they have found an excuse not to do their duties. They may be cited for contempt of court, they said.

But the injunction was issued only against the UP anti-squatting task force and two other claimants, and not against the PNP or City Hall. Besides, the injunction did not bestow ownership on the claimants or the squatters so the police and City Hall can legally stop them from erecting their shanties.

Spicks and specks

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

ALMOST uncannily they just showed an old movie by Gregory Peck last Tuesday on cable TV. I caught it by accident. It was late, past midnight, I think, and I had just laid down a book. The movie, a black-and-white one, was "Cape Fear," the original one, which remains far superior to the remake Martin Scorsese made some years ago. It kept me awake till the wee hours of morning.

That movie was written by one of the most literate mystery writers in the business (take it from me), John MacDonald, and was directed by Lee Thompson. Thompson never particularly enjoyed a reputation for being a great director, but the story and the performances by the actors, notably Peck and Robert Mitchum, carried his vehicle to tremendous success. The story told of a newly released convict (Mitchum), who relentlessly terrorizes the family of a man who put him away. Mitchum was absolutely magnificent in his malevolence. I saw it first when I was a kid, and I remember that it gave me many a sleepless night.

I had just revived a yen for old movies when toward the end of this week, I read the news that Gregory Peck died. Harry Belafonte would tell Larry King on CNN last weekend that his 87-year-old friend died peacefully in bed with his wife holding his hand.

He and several other actors and movie personalities were profuse in their praise of him. Peck was a deeply moral man, they said, whose humanity shone everywhere, not least in his movies. He was the kind of man who had convictions. You might not always agree with them, they said, but you listened because you were aware that those convictions were not lightly held, or blithely considered.

I don't know, but every time I hear the phrase, "movies when movies were movies," I think of Gregory Peck, he with the deep rumbling voice quivering with righteousness or emotional turmoil, while his face remained impassive. The one movie he would of course always be associated with is "To Kill A Mockingbird," from Harper Lee's novel. Lee herself, a former airline sales clerk from Alabama turned novelist, should be a great subject for a novel. "To Kill A Mockingbird" was the only book she published, yet it was sufficiently powerful to earn for her no end of praise and citation. But that's another story, literally.

In the movie version, also black and white, directed by Robert Mulligan, Peck plays a smalltime southern lawyer named Atticus Finch who defends a black accused of rape in a place boiling with racial restiveness. He pretty much has the whole town against him, not least judge and jury. The story is seen from the point of view of Atticus's children, who themselves have to deal with a loony-tunes neighbor (Robert Duvall, who showed here why he would become the great actor he is) who likes to frighten them. The juxtaposition between racial hatred and juvenile fear of ogres or monsters makes an obvious point about how most of us remain children in life, groping fearfully in the dark, afraid of phantom menaces. I would recommend it for viewing for GMA and her retinue of "anti-terrorist" fighters in Malacañang because it should improve their minds. But I don't know that they have time to spare from their adolescent games.

"To Kill A Mockingbird" was shown in 1962, a couple of years after the novel came out, and earned for Peck the best actor award at the Oscars. By that time, Martin Luther King's civil rights movement had taken root in various parts of America, huge marches sprouting everywhere. Looked at from today's perspective, some scenes there might appear a little patronizing. My favorite scene (I've seen the movie several times, but that scene never fails to bring a lump to my throat) is when Peck leaves the courtroom at the end of the trial. His kids, who were watching in the gallery with the black community—that is the only place they are allowed, the seats downstairs being reserved for whites—have dozed off to sleep. A black woman rouses them up, whispering solemnly, "Stand up, your father is passing."

But looked at historically, this was progressive to the max. Belafonte offered that perspective in King's show. At the time, he said, particularly in the American South, the black community looked hopefully for signs that the predominantly white society they lived in, or had been forced to serve as slaves in the past, had a kind side to it, which held out the possibility of real coexistence or integration. Peck's character in the movie crystallized that hope for many blacks. It was an awesome image, and one that had an enormous impact on its time and place.

It's also a good reminder that the "movies when movies were movies" were not all bulwarks of conservatism, which is how we often think of them, particularly in reference to the presumably anarchic values of today's crop. Many of those movies were just as iconoclastic and fitful as today's, when looked at from the vantage point of their own time.

Gregory Peck made a lot more movies afterward, but none quite compared with "To Kill A Mockingbird." I remember that my father, who died when I was 14, particularly liked one entitled "The Big Country." That one I saw only once more later, in Betamax. My father loved its anti-violence message, and reveled in that scene where Peck and Charlton Heston slug it out the whole night in the prairie, at the end of which, both of them panting and exhausted, Peck turns to Heston and says, "Tell me, what in hell did we prove by this?"

These movies were tremendous influences, which I suspect lodged deep in my psyche. "To Kill A Mockingbird" remains my personal favorite. It's the one movie that made me vow that someday, someone will tell my kids: Stand up, your father is passing.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

About time

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FINALLY the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has moved and recommended the suspension of Willie Revillame and John Estrada from hosting the daily noontime show "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN because of their off-color jokes and risqué behavior. The MTRCB acted on numerous complaints of parents, and the network officials agreed to suspend their highly paid noontime talents for one week. But a one-week suspension for Revillame and Estrada is not even a slap on the wrist. There are people who feel very strongly that they should be banned altogether from TV, especially from shows for young people.

* * *

Some time back these two were already suspended for their offensive jokes and behavior, after the camera focused on Revillame who seemed to be having an erection while he was touching one scantily clad dancer. This proved to be the clincher to a long litany of public complaints about the show; and finally the network could no longer ignore the public howls of outrage. But Revillame and his partner were brought back soon enough due to their ratings. There seems to have been a breakdown in ABS-CBN's discipline in the case of these two hosts, as well as in its priorities.

* * *

The MTRCB, under its new chair Marissa Laguardia, has also found the courage to warn Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon, hosts of the rival "Eat Bulaga" on GMA-7, that they could suffer the same fate as the ABS-CBN talents. Which is good, for these two host are just as bad. I am not a regular watcher of noontime shows, but there was one episode on "Eat Bulaga" that I caught by accident while looking for news and it ruined my day. An eating contest among young girls was being conducted by Sotto and De Leon, and at one point these two idiots tried to make one poor contestant laugh, the idea being to make her throw up in public. The girl was in such agony trying to control herself as her human right to decent treatment was being assaulted. The whole program was plainly vulgar and offensive to good taste, and so degrading and humiliating to the girls who were being totally exploited.

* * *

The question is, why do ABS-CBN and GMA-7, which periodically trumpet their ratings and mega-earnings to prove they are on top, condone these programs that debase Filipino girls and society's values? Is it only a question of ratings and income? Maybe the MTRCB's action against the two noontime shows presents a good occasion for officials of the two giant networks to do some urgent house-cleaning. I'd like to appeal to honorable and decent officials like Oscar and Gabby Lopez of ABS-CBN and Felipe Gozon and Gualberto Duavit of GMA-7 to stop prostituting our people's values. They should realize that immense success carries awesome responsibilities to the public.

* * *

In the United States, divorce, live-in arrangements, swinging lifestyles and other modern-day trappings of "liberation" are pretty much a fact of private life. But when it comes to anything that passes through the TV and air waves, the US public can be uncompromising, especially in shows for the young. Any slight offense to public taste and good sense is carefully monitored, and no TV network is so huge that it can ignore acceptable public standards. By contrast, why are we tolerating such terrible assaults on good taste here?

I recall that two years ago ad executive Emily Abrera launched a campaign to return decency and good taste to these TV shows, but this seemed to have fallen on deaf (network) ears. The public has to move to protect these standards. Parents and schools ought to campaign for a boycott of the shows' product sponsors, and if necessary, of the tolerant networks. Write letters of protest to Lopez and Gozon.

* * *

For the fourth time this country, with Abilympics Philippines Inc. at the helm, will be participating in the International Abilympics, termed the "Olympics of Abilities." The 6th competition is scheduled from Nov. 23 to 30, 2003 in New Delhi, India, the first time that the event will be held in South Asia. Started by Japan to celebrate the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981, IA aims to raise awareness on the employment of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Abilympics Philippines (AP) Inc. is a non-profit, non-government organization set up to enhance the quality of life of PWDs by promoting equality through participation in innovative opportunities for work environment, leisure and living activities. Established by the late Star columnist Art Borjal, AP is now co-chaired by civic-leader Rosie Lovely T. Romulo, the better half of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, and Begona B. Ortigas, with Josefina "Joy" Belmonte, Mercy Tuazon and yours truly as members. Bea M. Zobel serves in the board of advisers.

* * *

With full support from President Macapagal-Arroyo and in cooperation with the Departments of Social Welfare, and Interior and Local Government, Tesda and the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, AP will lead the Philippine delegation to the Delhi competition. The Philippines has had a good record in the competitions, winning four bronze medals and four citations in the third International Abilympics in Hong Kong in 1991; four bronzes and several citations in its fourth edition in Perth, Australia, in 1995; and one gold, one silver and four bronzes and some citations in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2000.

Determined to win more gold medals in India, Tesda is now providing intensive training to the 19 PWD national winners of the skills competition held in Davao City in 2001. These PWDs will be fielded in different vocational, leisure and skills contests. The Philippines also has the distinction of being the first country to integrate PWDs with able-bodied competitors in national skills competition.

True colors

YOUNG BLOOD

Gail Chanyungco

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEVER realized how much of a Filipino I am until I left Manila for work. Since childhood, I had been exposed to foreign brands, thus developing a preference for Pachelbel as my favorite classical musician to "Kiss" by Gustav Klimt as my favorite painting. Back then, I would always choose sushi or burger for dinner and have very few nice things to say about *kaldereta* or *sinigang*. I was trained to speak English fluently and seldom say things in "Tagalog." As far as I knew, such Western taste was considered by urban Filipino society as something "classy." My preference for such stuff gave me a sense of belonging to my group of *kolehiyalas*.

But to my surprise, all these seemed to have changed when I got posted in a foreign country, which strikes me as rather ironic.

Almost two years ago, I was given an opportunity to join the regional team of a British bank in Singapore and represent our race in a group of multi-cultural faces from all over the world. I traveled to various countries, including Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong, to manage the banking services we are developing. Discovering new cultures and, yes, savoring all the *unagi don* I wanted was one big treat for me. My taste evolved to include an increasing list of foreign favorites such as *kalbi kui*, duck rice and *risotto*.

I almost fell off my chair when one day in Ginza, I felt like throwing up an ultra-expensive *unagi temaki* and realized that there was a threshold to my liking for foreign food. Back in Manila, I would use all my cunning just to have a Japanese treat. And here I was, about to throw up the real Japanese *sushi* right in its very own country.

But I was even more shocked when I had this huge craving which came out of nowhere for the *sinigang* our cook made every Saturday or even the *tapa*, garlic rice and not to forget the *achara* at Goodah. My cravings had always been biased toward Western and Japanese foods, but here I was longing for Filipino dishes and willing to pay any amount in yens, pounds or dollars just to buy a Knorr *sinigang* flavoring.

Had I lost my "sophistication" because I hadn't kept in touch with my circle of friends due to the distance between us? What happened to the trendy *moi*?

One day I woke up to the smell of freshly brewed Batangas coffee and figured out that there was no need for me to seek psychiatric help. I realized that the longer I was away from home, the better I was able to see myself and realized that I was a Filipino after all. I may have developed a deep appreciation for European art and a taste for foreign aroma, but deep inside it's still the Filipino flavor that made me happy. It's in my blood, my hair and color. It's just me.

In fact during my job stint abroad, I looked forward to the gatherings every Sunday among fellow Filipino friends. I would laugh with them over the most recent corny *jolog* jokes sent by e-mail to any of us by someone in Manila. Also, this was the opportunity for me to speak Filipino even if my tongue would often trip over some words after talking all week in English. In Manila, speaking Tagalog would not have gone well with the air of sophistication one wanted to project especially among my *kolehiyala* pals. Now I wanted to let every Tagalog word roll on my tongue.

Although the Philippines may not be a developed country whose infrastructure and facilities are very efficient, I am proud to have been born in this country. I look upon the hardships and difficulties we experience as the reason I am able to easily adapt to any culture and embrace it. However, admiration for the Western culture should not make me lose sight of the real me. At the end of the day, my true colors will always come through regardless of where I work or live.

Now, I have higher respect for my countrymen who patronize products from home or work abroad to help their families and our country, even if they earn in a month what one would pay for dinner in a five-star hotel in Singapore. They are helping get our country out of poverty, which should have been part of my job description. To be like them is like helping myself develop. There may have been times when I forgot that I was a Filipino but my color, accent and taste would always bring me back to reality.

I once obsessed with Western brands to the point of nearly losing my own identity. But now I know better. In fact I am saving money to buy an "Ang Kiukok" painting to hang in my apartment.

Gail Chanyungco, 29, was posted in Singapore for almost two years as part of a multinational team working for a foreign bank. She says she is proud to be a Filipino.

US forces in Iraq warned of more attacks

NEWS ANALYSIS

AFP

BAGHDAD—US forces in Iraq pressed on Saturday with attempts to crush resistance to their occupation of the country, as a prominent Iraqi politician warned they could not expect to see attacks end unless they gave local people more power.

Fighting was concentrated in areas north of Baghdad, where many people still express sympathy for the regime of Saddam Hussein, which was ousted by US-led coalition forces in April.

US troops launched their operations from Sunday across north-central Iraq after taking a spate of casualties from armed groups in recent weeks, but Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmed Chalabi warned Washington that it is making a mistake by refusing to give Iraqis more authority over their own country.

Chalabi told the Washington Post in an interview published Saturday that the decision to limit Iraqi influence could spark increased opposition to the US-led occupation. He criticized the White House decision not to grant immediate responsibilities to Iraqis or allow them to choose members of a council designed to advise the occupation authorities, according to the report.

"We have to open up an Iraqi political process immediately," Chalabi said. He stressed that an advisory group selected by US administrator Paul Bremer would not be more representative than one the Iraqis themselves could create.

Chalabi said the perception of US occupation "needs to be rectified" and argued that US President George W. Bush's administration should tap into the "enormous energy" of Iraqis by establishing a 25,000-member Iraqi security force, the Post said. The INC leader said the Iraqis could be trained by the Americans, report to the Central Command (Centcom) and be accompanied by US forces, according to the report.

In the biggest operation, dubbed Peninsula Strike, launched Sunday night by a brigade-size force between the towns of Balad and Baqubah, US Central Command said 27 Iraqis were killed Friday as they attempted a counter-attack against US forces.

The coalition has deployed air and ground assault teams and commandos in river patrol boats for what it says is a massive search and destroy operation against suspected guerrilla hideouts in the northeast.

A second massive operation launched early Thursday included air assault units from the 101st Airborne Division.

Centcom said some 70 to 80 surface-to-air missiles and nearly 80 anti-tank weapons had been recovered so far in the attack on a suspected "terrorist training camp" 150 kilometers (95 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

Centcom said a separate raid launched by the 173rd Airborne Brigade near Kirkuk in the north had netted 74 suspected al-Qaida sympathizers.

But US ground forces commander Lt. Gen. David McKiernan later said it was "premature" to speak of links to the international terror group which the Bush administration alleged existed in Saddam Hussein's regime. McKiernan insisted the United States has sufficient forces in Iraq to deal with resistance "hot spots" but no US troops will be brought home while combat operations continue.

He said attacks on US forces appeared to be organized locally by elements still loyal to Saddam, whose whereabouts are unknown. But a letter purportedly signed by him and published Saturday in the pan-Arab daily Al-Quds Al-Arabi told foreigners to leave Iraq and threatened attacks in countries and on planes of the coalition.

Meanwhile, the fallout continued from the failure to find Saddam's alleged weapons of mass destruction, another pretext for the war.

The Los Angeles Times said Saturday the US Central Intelligence Agency had reassigned two senior officials who oversaw its analysis of Iraq and its suspected weapons.

The newspaper said the officials, whose names have not been revealed, had served in senior positions, in which they were deeply involved in assembling and assessing the intelligence on Iraq's alleged stocks of chemical and biological arms.

One was reassigned last week to the CIA's personnel department after spending the past several months heading the Iraq Task Force, a special unit set up to provide 24-hour support to military commanders during the war, The Times reported.

The other, a longtime analyst who had led the agency's Iraq Issue Group that is responsible for analysis of all US intelligence on the country, was dispatched on an extended mission to Iraq, the paper said.

The Times quoted CIA spokesperson Bill Harlow as saying the changes were routine, but another intelligence source told the paper, "Two of the key players on this problem have essentially been sent into deep exile."

US authorities meanwhile gave tentative approval to three US-based carriers to provide air services to Iraq, two weeks after lifting a nearly 13-year-old ban.

The US Department of Transportation granted the applications of World Airways, Northwest Airlines and freight carrier Kalitta Air to provide scheduled air service to Iraq subject to further US government clearance. *AFP*

Changing customs

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

DID you know that there was such a thing among the Americans as one-upmanship in the matter of whether one came in 1898, in 1900 or 1901? That's according to Mary Fee, a Thomasite first sent to Iloilo and later to the Philippine Normal School.

Being what used to be described as "*gaya-gaya, puto maya*," the urbanized Pinay took to wearing hats rather than going bare-headed and flaunting those long, lustrous tresses that owed nothing to chemical shampoos but were the product of coconut oil. Aside from the ridiculousness of harem-shaped and hobble skirts, atrocities in headgear "profaned" the Luneta, according to Fee.

Outside Manila changing customs were even more obvious. It appears that Filipinos and even Chinese merchants would offer cigars to visitors and customers to smoke whether one was male or female. Thank heaven it wasn't *buyo* that had already been chewed. What appears repellent to a granddaughter may well have been de rigueur for a female ancestor.

People must have gotten used to the presence of Americans in a short time since Fee reports that she no longer gathered a crowd like some kind of celebrity when she moved around. But the bane of her existence was that she couldn't find stamps for her letters at the time, although by 1911, a dozen years of occupation later, these were readily available. But just imagine you could always buy Cadbury's, muscatel and champagne, bottled water from Florida, "to say nothing of the beer that made Milwaukee famous," condensed milk for sale at 50 cents a can and tomatoes at 75. (It occurred to me at this juncture to think of all the things we take for granted and get thoroughly upset when we can't find Tylenol Flu for instance or Romaine lettuce. This is even more ridiculous when you think that out of every 100 Filipinos, 24 are chronically hungry.)

At the turn of the 20th century, poor Americans were consigned to eating "stone-cold eggs" for breakfast and cinnamon-flavored chocolate for merienda. I can only surmise that (a) the local coffee industry hadn't recovered from the blight of the latter half of the 19th century that destroyed production, (b) the majority of Thomasites weren't from the East Coast and therefore didn't drink tea, and (c) Filipinos like the Spanish loved chocolates and no one was aware of cholesterol and the like. Filipinos also liked meringue and crystallized fruits and, judging from some of the goodies sold at Dulcinea today, they still do. However, at some point of that early decade they learned how to make "pie."

From Fee's point of view, Filipinos looked to Americans at first with "that tinge of romantic expectation." But that apparently went out the window soonest. We were aghast that they had only two party dresses and had to make allowances for their "taste in conversation" (What in heaven's name did they talk about? Or what did we for that matter?) and their "prudery of speech." (Now that is surprising! Any one watching a movie these days will soon improve their four-letter word vocabulary immensely.) We thought them "food mad" and "clothes poor."

The "food mad" is readily explained. Apparently cooks in those days had a taste for garlic, pork fat and oil (Isn't that the basis for any sautéing?). Now the poor mid-Westerner who hadn't travelled outside Kansas or Ohio would hardly have developed a taste for that redolent root crop much beloved by Latins. Urbanized American taste has to an extent improved from those early days.

But cooks were a real hassle. In the first place, there were no electric or gas ovens. One had to be content with "old, smutty" *fogones* that imparted a taste of smoke to everything. Then there was the matter of saucepans that the cooks thought weren't worth scrubbing and scouring on the outside since the next meal would make them sooty again. Not only that but dish towels, unless the "*nyora*" caught them, were used both for dishes and to mop floors! Actually the cook, she felt, looked down his nose at someone who used milk to make soup and didn't like garlic.

Chinese shops have seen little alteration, especially in the Binondo-Quiapo districts. They're still "crowded with every known commodity from iron frying pans to embossed silk frocks" and they're still filthy. The tradition of the Parian lives on and will probably continue even when the Filipino becomes extinct. For sale were grains in jars, bunches of garlic and "a most repellent lumpy sausage" hanging from the ceiling. From the cornice was a fringe of Chinese ham, "so thin, stringy, and tough that they painted a picture of the emaciated pig which produced them." Overall was a combination of smells—tea, grease, garlic, baking bread, fermented fish and, wonder of wonders, opium!

Addicted to bread as Asians were to rice, Fee had to choose between bread from "*el Chino Macao*" or *pan de sal* from a delivery boy who went around every morning.

Refrigerators or ice boxes being rather scarce in the provinces, Fee suffered from having to eat melted butter that quickly turned rancid in the heat. Her students in Iloilo were so ignorant that they didn't recognize butter in its solid form.

Now observe what home economics lessons taught us: hot cakes (mine chew like rubber even when pre-mixed), biscuits, cakes, pies and cookies. We didn't take to cereals and no one liked oatmeal. But we enjoyed the firecrackers on the 4th of July and prizes were awarded to the best decorated houses ironically celebrating American independence after having lost our own.

(*Mary Helen Fee, "Life in the Provinces," The CableNews-American Yearly Review, 911.*)

THEY SAID

Complicated

"Meralco (Manila Electric Co.) is very crafty and it was determined to give consumers such a hard and complicated time that they will give up on the refund."

—Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran on Meralco's refund procedures

Under study

"Forgive me but I cannot say whether I will run or not. I need to study it first."

—Businessman Danding Cojuangco, responding to newsmen's question if he would seek the presidency or not

Proper place

"He is still claiming that he is the president. It's time for him to return to where he belongs, Camp Crame."

—Prosecutor Antonio Manzano, seeking deposed President Joseph Estrada's transfer from the hospital to jail

On their toes

"This should be a warning to other officials of the government. Watch out because the boss is coming to you."

—Rep. Apolinario Lozada, hailing the surprise visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Land Transportation Office

A need, not an urge

"In the seminary, we are taught…that sex is just an urge. No, it is not just an urge. It is a need."

—Fr. Robert Reyes, commenting on the most recent sex scandal to hit the church

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Evacuees not being forced to leave centers

THIS refers to the news stories entitled "Evacuees forced to leave ahead of GMA visit" and "NGOs question sudden return of evacuees." (PDI, 6/10 and 12, 2003)

There is no truth to the report that thousands of evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato, were told to pack up their belongings and forced to return to their villages with no assurance of security because President Macapagal-Arroyo was going to the area.

Of all the affected areas, Pikit has the highest number of evacuees who have returned: 3,695 families or 18,475 persons since April. Some returned to their communities but went back to the evacuation centers because of sporadic fighting. A total of 5,346 families or 26,730 persons are being prepared to return to their communities.

Pikit has a well-organized Municipal Disaster Council. It is a multi-sectoral group chaired by Ariel Cabanog, with Fr. Bert Layson as vice chair. In these difficult and trying times, the group has always made sure that they monitor the food supply for the evacuees. Actually, they have set up a monitor board in the plaza.

The 54th Engineering Brigade is building Community-Based Convertible Structures (CBCS) at Mahad Fort in Pikit. These CBCS, with a 164 sq. m floor area, will provide additional roof over the heads of evacuees as the rains come since many of them are occupying congested school buildings. These structures are expected to be finished by mid-June. Anyone is welcome to visit the CBCS anytime.

If it was our intention to force the evacuees to return to their communities, then why are we building these CBCS which are semi-permanent structures?

We ask for fairness in reporting a situation as complex and complicated as Mindanao. The least that can be done for ordinary workers both in government and non-government organizations who are tasked to serve the needs of evacuees on a daily basis is to treat them fairly. Casting doubts on the volunteer work does not help promote a spirit of hope or encourage generosity between and among the citizens in a place like Pikit. Perhaps, it would be good to talk to the people who have really gone home and whose lives have been rebuilt because there are people who are quietly working for their return to their communities. Anyone who stays in the evacuation centers would really want to go home.

—CORAZON JULIANO SOLIMAN,
secretary, Department of Social Welfare
and Development, Batasan Pambansa
Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City

LRTA 2 opening coincided with GMA's birthday

PLEASE allow us to respond to the column of Neal H. Cruz, in which he raised issues on the early opening of Phase 1 of the LRT Line 2, calling it "a P276-million birthday gift to President Macapagal-Arroyo."

We would like to clarify that the launching of Line 2 last April 5 was not a birthday gift for the President. It simply coincided with her birthday. The March 31 deadline for its launch was made in fulfillment of the President's promise in her first State of the Nation Address and in anticipation of the opening of classes. The line was launched nine months ahead of the revised schedules. It was opened in April before the start of classes to allow time to debug the system and accustom people to using it.

As a result of fast-tracking the project, the government was able to save P140 million in construction-related costs and claims. Likewise, the LRTA is expected to earn millions of pesos more for operating the line ahead of schedule.

While the terms of the contracts for package 1 (construction of Santolan depot), package 2 (construction of substructure), package 3 (construction of superstructures) and package 4 (construction and provision of electro-mechanical equipment) targeted the completion of the Santolan-Cubao phase by June 9, 2003, this phase will not be finished until Dec. 31, 2003 because of delays caused mainly by right-of-way problems that existed even before LRTA administrator Teodoro B. Cruz Jr. came in.

Due to the accelerated schedule, package 2 was fast-tracked by five months, package 3, nine months, and package 4, almost seven months, resulting in savings for the government. Although the acceleration efforts entailed additional costs, this was justified by the savings and the additional revenues to be earned from operating the line ahead of schedule, not to mention the economic and social benefits.

Additionally, the benefits did not include time-related costs on package 4. Had there been no acceleration, time-related costs of P1.1 million per day from June 10, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003 would have been claimed by Asia Europe MRT Consortium totaling P225.5 million. The LRTA board approved the acceleration of Phase 1 for an acceleration cost not to exceed P200 million for package 2 and package 3, and P85 million for package 4.

In effect, the government saved P140 million plus the expected revenues from train operations.

On the shortage in revenues, we would like to clarify that since April 5 when Phase 1 was inaugurated up to June 15, the system was operated on a partial schedule as the trains and the electro-mechanical systems were on a test run. A regular schedule was set for implementation on June 16.

—ZOSIMO C. MENDOZA,
chief of staff,
Light Rail Transit Authority,
LRTA Compound,
Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SSS member's ITR form needed

THIS is about the letter of Rowena C. Yu about the SSS contributions of Teodora Tan Yu published last May 26. Rowena complained about the delay in the remittance of Teodora Tan Yu's pension because the number assigned to her by the Social Security System belonged to another person with the same name and date of birth.

Our SSS office in Cagayan de Oro City has requested the posting of her contributions to a new SSS number, 08-01376277-1. Our Employee Accounts Department in Quezon City has reviewed the contributions. Records show her self-employed membership started in Jan. 1988, but she started paying her contributions only in February, 1994.

Since Tan was not able to pay contributions when her application for self-employed membership was approved, she is now required to present a copy of her income tax return (ITR) for 1988 to determine if she should pay SSS contributions at that time.

Our Cagayan de Oro office informed her of this requirement. She said she did not have a copy of her ITR but would try to get a copy from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

SSS records also revealed that Tan has an underpayment of P2,355. This was incurred because she had been advised to pay P80 per month but only paid P64.

As soon as she is able to present her ITR, her payments from January 1988 to June 1998 will be posted. Without the ITR, her contributions will be posted prospectively from February 1994 (the date she paid her first contribution) to January 2004. She will then be allowed to apply for retirement benefits in July 2004.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

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The Boulevard

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IN CASE you haven't noticed, Roxas Boulevard is going through a most welcome face-lift, with new pavements, street lights and food kiosks.

The Americans named it Dewey Boulevard, the Japanese renamed it Heiwa (Peace) Boulevard and after we regained our independence, it became Roxas Boulevard. In my childhood, it was called simply "Boulevard," where we were taken to ride double-decker buses (you paid more on the upper deck, where you could take in the sea breeze).

Other than the double-deckers, there's nothing of childhood memories of the boulevard, or of the bay. In college, at Ateneo, I'd go with friends for an occasional concert at the Cultural Center. At UP, with new company, the visits to the boulevard were to demonstrate against the "US-Marcos dictatorship."

Through all those years, Manila Bay somehow remained in the background. The bay's deterioration started many years ago, its waters no longer fit for swimming, and the air just becoming too polluted. The much-touted sunsets just weren't exciting enough, especially as the boulevard became more dangerous, with stories of muggings. So while high-rise condominiums emerged, advertising grand views of the sunset, people didn't really go out anymore to the boulevard, preferring to watch from high-rise buildings, from a safe distance.

How is the boulevard now, after the renovation?

I was alone the first time I went back, trying to unwind after a long day at UP's Manila campus. I caught the sunset, and I must say it had the most calming effect, the yellow and orange hues gradually giving way to a purple haze. A mild stench reminded me the haze was partly due to pollution, but never mind, I thought, the total effect was still moving.

I strolled up and down the boulevard several times, the renovated stretch being only about a kilometer long, just taking in the sunset and doing a bit of people-watching. Early evening you find mostly young couples in various stages of falling in love. As night falls, you actually find families coming out, even on weekdays, and I think this is the best part, the boulevard attracting parents with their children. I also saw quite a few families with Lolo and Lola coming along. Good, I thought, the place is friendly to children and to the elderly.

I had left my wallet back at someone's apartment, not too sure about the security but I'm convinced, after the two visits, that it's probably now one of the safest places in the city. Having said that, I would advise against bringing your electronic paraphernalia, more because the bay offers its own perks, best appreciated without cell phones and Walkmans and MP3 players.

The second time I visited was with a friend, Jepoy, the ultimate city kid if there ever was one. He'd never been to the boulevard, part of a younger generation that prefers television and play stations and game arcades. I was able to convince him not to bring a single electronic gadget, just to see how long he'd last.

We got off to a rough start. We'd just set foot in front of the bay when one of the waves came crashing, the sea spray landing on our faces. "Wow," I told Jepoy, "feel that tingle."

"Ngek," he answered, worried that his Pond's whitener-moisturizer would wash off. "Gyuk," he grimaced in horror as we drew closer to the bay.

I was almost embarrassed, having told him about how soothing the waves were and having missed all the gook--it was quite close to sunset when I first visited. This time, earlier in the evening, you could see the tons of trash.

"So many slippers," Jepoy observed and he was right, and for a brief moment, we suddenly looked at each other in horror, sea spray still glistening on our faces. Could the slippers have come from...

"Nah," I assured him, the accident took place a few weeks ago, it couldn't have been the victim's slippers. It's just plain trash from the city, I muttered, and started a short lecture about how trash finds its way to the sea. Suddenly the sea spray seemed less invigorating.

I tried to distract him by ordering beer. He went for a grilled blue marlin, a mistake. It was so bad Jepoy wanted to set it free back in Manila Bay but he was certain it would have jumped right out in disgust. The food fare in most of the kiosks does leave much to be desired; vegetarians like myself end up sticking with beer. Least they could do was offer some *lato* or seaweed salad but even the carnivores' food fare was quite pedestrian, and fairly expensive.

Jepoy was muttering now about not having his cell phone and what about the sunset I was raving about. There's nothing, he whined, and he was right. There was nothing...yet.

But a bit past 6 there was a sudden transformation, the sun suddenly emerging from beneath the clouds, a bright yellow orb slowly descending toward the horizon, even while generating colors all around it. The garbage was still there, unfortunately, but there was enough of the sky—now an artist's palette—and the sun's reflections shimmering in the sea, to lift people's hearts. I could see Jepoy was now totally enchanted, weaned, albeit for a few minutes, away from his toys.

That's quite an achievement, getting street-wise city kid to marvel about the sea and the sun. He's convinced, as I am, the bay and its sunsets and sunrises change each day, enough to make people want to go back. The boulevard, and the bay, might yet hold the key to reviving Manila.

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- There will be 3 winners per flight.

Per DTI-Region VII Permit No. 058, Seri

50 Ways to Celebrate JUNE

26

17 June

Sino ba ang hindi nakakakilala sa kanila?
Kaya naman lahat gusto gumaya.
First day today ng **"Feeling F4"** sing-and-look-alike contest!

"F4" sa MTB!

MASAYANG TANGHALI BAYAN

Monday to Friday • 12:00 NN
Saturday after "Meteor Garden Rewind"

27

17 June

Pupunta ang barkada sa China, este, Chinatown, para sa isang daring rescue mission na punong-puno ng kung fu action.
Ka-join si KUYA DICK sa continuing 1st anniversary celebration ng No. 1 comedy show!

CROUCHING MICHAEL, HIDDEN MIGUEL

OK FINE, WHATEVER

Tonight after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

28

18 June

Dumating lang si **KRIS AQUINO** sa neighborhood, nagkagulo na! Mag-aaway pa sina Vicky at Yaki dahil sa kanya. Bakit kaya?

WHATTAKRISTETA!

WHATTAMEN

Wednesday after "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas"

29

19 June

Lagot na!
Mahuhuli ni **SHAN CAI** sina **DAO MING SI** at kanyang fiancee!

METEOR GARDEN

Monday to Friday before "TV Patrol"

30

20 June

Kahindik-hindik!
May malaking unos na dala ang kanyang di-inaakalang pagkabuhay.

PAGBABALIK NI LORINDA

KAY TAGAL KANG HININTAY

Monday to Friday after "Game KNB?"

31

STARTING **21 June**

You just can't get enough of them talaga!
Tuloy-tuloy na ang kuwento kahit Sabado.
At kung hindi mo na-umpisahan o gusto mong balik-balikan, nasa weekend mornings na rin!

7 DAYS A WEEK NA!

METEOR GARDEN

Monday to Friday before "TV Patrol"
Saturday before "Magandang Gabi, Bayan"

METEOR GARDEN *REWIND*

Saturday & Sunday • 11:30 AM

32

21 June

Sa wakas, magkaka-alaman na ng true feelings for each other sina Javy at Gwyneth.

TRUE LOVE NA!

BERKS

Saturday • 5:00 PM

33

21 June

ARRIBERTDEY! Bash #2 for our debutante!
Reunion ni **CAMILLE PRATS** with her "Marinella" co-stars **SHAINA MAGDAYAO, SERENA DALRYMPLE** at **RIO LOCSIN.**

NEW TIME!

ARRIBA! ARRIBA!

Saturday • 8:00 PM

34

21 June

SHARON EXPOSED!
Mabubuking na ng barkada ang tunay na trabaho ni Sharon.

NEW TIME!

BUTTERCUP

Saturday • 9:00 PM

35

22 June

Party time with ABS-CBN's hottest!
Launch ng **HIMIG HANDOG LOVE SONGS 2003,** now on its 2nd year of chartbustin' love hits!

NEW TIME!

A.S.A.P. MANIA

Sunday after "Meteor Garden Rewind"

Dahil 50 years na ang Philippine television, araw-araw may sorpresang hatid ang mga kapamilya mo sa ABS-CBN!

35 and still counting. Patindi nang patindi talaga... so keep watching

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Ex-Iraq envoy says Saddam deserved fate

CAIRO—Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations during the dying days of Saddam Hussein's regime now says that his government deserved to be overthrown.

But Mohammed al-Douri argued in a television interview broadcast by BBC World Monday that Iraqis—not the US-led coalition—should have toppled Saddam.

Al-Douri said that right up until the last moment, Saddam's government did not believe the United States and Britain would invade Iraq.

"Naji Sabri (the foreign minister) told me: 'Don't be anxious. This war will never happen,'" the former ambassador said.

Al-Douri said that he advised Baghdad the threat of war was serious and that he still could not explain why they refused to accept it.

The BBC asked him about the mass graves of hundreds of executed Iraqis that had been uncovered since the fall of Saddam.

"Those are Iraqi people, my brothers, so I regret that and I hope that all people responsible for that, for these graves have to be presented to the trial, to the judgment and to be judged by Iraqi people, not by British or American," Al-Douri said.

Interviewer Tim Sebastian asked him if he was now prepared to condemn the regime that he served.

"Not I now, but I condemn always—not now—I condemn always any kind of killing in Iraq or outside Iraq," Al-Douri replied.

Asked if he were not ashamed of having served Saddam's regime, he said: "No, I'm never ashamed that I have been involved because I'm always considering myself as serving my country, my people and not the government."

Al-Douri was the first senior Iraqi official to acknowledge that the war was lost after US troops overran Baghdad on April 9. He has not returned to Baghdad, contrary to orders issued to all Iraqi ambassadors last month, and is believed to be in the United Arab Emirates.

The BBC said the interview took place in the Gulf region.

Al-Douri said he thought Iraqis were glad that Saddam was gone, "but they are not glad at having the Americans and the British there."

Asked if Saddam's regime deserved to be toppled, al-Douri said: "Not by you, (not) by American and British, but by the Iraqi people."

He insisted the US and British forces "are colonizing Iraq and not liberating Iraq."

As ambassador to the United Nations, Al-Douri insisted that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction. In the BBC interview, he largely stuck to that claim, saying the government had told him these weapons were destroyed in 1991-92.

Al-Douri comes from al-Dour, a town 135 km north of Baghdad and only 15 km south of Tikrit, Saddam's hometown. Its inhabitants tend to belong to Iraq's Sunni Muslim minority, like Saddam, and they benefited from his regime. Saddam's deputy on the Revolutionary Command Council came from al-Dour. *AP*

Palestine officials expect truce soon

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Egyptian mediators summoned all Palestinian militias Monday in a final push to persuade them to halt attacks on Israelis, and Palestinian officials said they expect a truce to be declared very soon.

The Egyptians told militia leaders they had American guarantees that Israel would halt targeted killings of Palestinians suspected of involvement in violence, participants in the talks said.

The armed groups have said they will only consider laying down their arms if Israel promises to halt military strikes, including targeted killings.

Officials at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv declined comment on whether Washington had given such guarantees.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon reiterated Sunday that there would be no blanket promises. Sharon said Israel would not initiate military strikes in the event of a ceasefire, but would continue targeting "ticking bombs," a term widely understood as referring to militants about to carry out attacks.

However, Israeli officials later said Sharon was defining "ticking bombs" much more broadly and that it included those who send bombers and other attackers. This would lower Israel's threshold for continuing with targeted killings.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom on Monday rejected the idea of a deal with Hamas, saying Palestinian security forces would have to dismantle militias, as required by a US-backed plan, the "road map" to Palestinian statehood by 2005.

Shalom said a truce would simply allow militant groups to recover from Israeli strikes and gain strength. "We can't accept this (a ceasefire)," Shalom told Israel Radio.

Palestinian Authority officials said Monday they expected a ceasefire to be declared soon, and sources close to the talks said such an announcement could be made within 48 hours. *AP*

THAI contestants pose during the Miss Spinster contest in Bangkok on June 16. The winner promised not to marry during her one-year reign. AFP

37-year-old entrepreneur wins Thailand's Miss Spinster pageant

BANGKOK—A bevy of mature beauty contestants locked horns at the weekend to see who would be crowned Thailand's first-ever Miss Spinster.

The pageant, aimed exclusively at single women aged 28 or above, named 37-year-old Saowapa Thephasadin, a private entrepreneur with a talent for sign language, as Thailand's "Miss Khanthong" on Sunday.

The two-week event saw an original 128 contestants, all university graduates aged up to 51 years, whittled down to 21 participants who engaged in sportswear, short dress and evening gown competitions.

Among the contestants was a niece of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, whose connections to Thailand's richest man apparently were not enough to secure her a place in the final round.

Saowapa, who also won the award of Miss Personality, told judges she would immediately dedicate the year of her reign to helping Thailand's deaf people.

Runners-up included a former member of the national volleyball team and a college professor.

"The contest is to show that single females who are old can live happily even if they don't get married," said Jetset Productions spokesperson Withan Kamutchat on the pageant's opening day.

Saowapa took home a prize of 50,000 baht ($1,190) as well as her crown, which she will hold for a year provided she fulfills her commitment to stay unmarried during her reign.

Thais are great fans of beauty contests—two women from the kingdom have been crowned Miss Universe—and have quite a penchant for launching offbeat pageants.

Last month the country held its popular Jumbo Queen contest, an annual pageant for large-sized women designed to highlight the plight of Thailand's diminishing numbers of wild elephants. *AFP*

US soldiers raid more Iraqi homes

KHALDIYAH, Iraq—Armor-mounted American troops swept through towns and villages west of Baghdad after dawn Monday, arresting suspected resistance leaders and pursuing a concerted search for outlawed weapons.

It was the second day of a forceful new operation called Desert Scorpion based on intelligence pinpointing opponents of the US-led coalition in Iraq following the expiry on Sunday of an amnesty program for people turning in heavy weapons.

Families of those arrested warned resistance would only increase.

A US Central Command spokesperson denied reports that US soldiers were wounded in an ambush on a military vehicle near the town of Balad north of Baghdad.

Lt. Ryan Fitzgerald said initial accounts indicated the vehicle caught fire due to "mechanical failure," but he did not rule out the possibility that it may have been attacked by insurgents.

With observation helicopters circling a few hundred meters above them, more than 100 military police and infantrymen in 30 Humvees and four Bradley fighting vehicles poured into the small town of Khaldiyah, 70 km west of Baghdad.

They targeted six homes and took away nine men, acting on information about where suspected anti-American insurgents were hiding and illegal weapons stockpiled.

On the outskirts of Ramadi, about 30 km farther west, troops seized four brothers from one home and two brothers from a neighboring family.

There were no immediate reports of injuries in the raids.

In the Ramadi area, the families were still asleep when the armored column rumbled into their village at 5:15 a.m., blaring an Arabic-language warning from loudspeakers: "These are coalition forces. Please stay in your homes and open your doors. Thank you for your cooperation."

Troops bound everyone in the two houses, including women, with plastic handcuffs and moved them into a nearby field while they searched the homes. They found no weapons.

Omar Mishrif Faleh, an older brother of the detainees, said the soldiers knew what they were looking for and sought out the house of his brother who had served in Saddam Hussein's army.

"Someone must have informed on us," he said, although he denied that his arrested brothers, aged 20 to 30, were engaged in anti-American activities.

Minutes after the soldiers left, the Faleh house was crowded with sympathizing neighbors who tried to comfort the mother, who was weeping and trembling.

"The resistance is going to increase," said Abdul Qader Fahd, 30, a teacher. "Dealing with civilians like this is terrorism." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Australia spy called to British inquiry

CANBERRA—A former senior Australian intelligence analyst who claims Canberra exaggerated the threat of Iraq's weapons to justify war is free to appear before a British parliamentary inquiry this week but is not qualified to talk about Iraq, Prime Minister John Howard alleged Monday. Andrew Wilkie resigned in March from Australia's Office of National Assessments claiming the Australian government exaggerated and concocted evidence on Iraq's weapons programs. He has reportedly said that information provided by US intelligence agencies was "trash." *AP*

Thousands of villagers to camp in Aceh

BIREUEN, Indonesia—Soldiers have trucked thousands of villagers out of suspected rebel strongholds in Indonesia's Aceh province as part of a monthlong offensive against the insurgents, the Army and government officials said Monday. Around 13,000 people—among them many women and children—are currently living in a makeshift camp near Bireuen town after fleeing fighting in the area since Friday. *AP*

Hiroshima invites Nokor leader

TOKYO—The Japanese city of Hiroshima said Monday it had invited North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to attend the 58th anniversary of its devastation by an atomic-bomb to send a message warning against his country's nuclear ambitions. The invitation was made in response to allegations that North Korea had acknowledged its possession of nuclear weapons and its readiness to conduct nuclear tests, the city said in a statement. "We invite him to attend the (anniversary) ceremonies in an effort to convey the reality of nuclear irradiation and bring home the 'heart of Hiroshima' which wishes for the realization of eternal world peace," the statement said. *AFP*

Bali bomb survivors bare scars

BALI, Indonesia—Australian survivors of last year's Bali bombings showed an Indonesian court on Monday their burns and shared even deeper emotional scars left by the attacks. The three survivors testified at the trial of a key Bali bombing suspect, Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, who has never showed remorse for his alleged acts and has boasted he was proud of killing so many white people. *AP*

More Saudi militants arrested

MECCA, Saudi Arabia—Saudi police have arrested six suspected al-Qaida militants who belonged to a group that planned to attack Islam's holiest city, state-controlled newspapers reported Monday. The militants were detained on the road to the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Sunday, having abandoned a stolen car that had broken down, the daily Okaz reported. It said police shot and wounded one suspect after he threatened to detonate a bomb. The bomb did not explode, the paper added. *AP*

Virus downs 700 people in Nepal

KATMANDU—A strain of influenza has sickened more than 700 people in a remote mountainous district in Nepal and a shortage of medication has made the situation worse, news reports said Monday. Viral influenza has spread in at least 17 villages in the remote Dadeldhura district, about 600 km northeast of the capital Katmandu, the Katmandu Post newspaper reported Monday. Symptoms of the flu outbreak include fever, cough and body ache. It is believed to be spreading through polluted drinking water and contaminated food. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 17, 2003
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 8:1-9
Gospel: Mt 5:43-48

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy. But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

"If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary

What can be more contradictory than loving one's enemies? It is not natural! We can try to explain that to love is not to like. To love is simply to will the good of another. Yes, but to will the good of one you dislike or even hate? To love one's enemy is simply beyond us. It is so unnatural to us that if Jesus commands it, we must be more than natural. And we are, because we are graced beings, imbued with the power of God dwelling in us. If we must love our enemies and end all bitterness and anger in our hearts, we must fall on our knees begging that natural impulses may be transformed by the grace of God. We must allow God to be God in our hearts.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Right to a speedy trial—A speedy trial means a trial conducted according to the law of criminal procedure and the rules and regulations, free from vexatious, capricious, and oppressive delays. In Conde v. Rivera and Unson, 45 Phil. 650, 652 (1924), the Court held that "where a prosecuting officer, without good cause, secures postponements of the trial of a defendant against his protest beyond a reasonable period of time, as in this instance, for more than a year, the accused is entitled to relief by a proceeding in mandamus to compel a dismissal of the information, or if he be restrained of his liberty, by habeas corpus to obtain his freedom." The concept of speedy trial is necessarily relative. A determination as to whether the right has been violated involves the weighing of several factors such as the length of the delay, the reason for the delay, the conduct of the prosecution and the accused, and the efforts exerted by the defendant to assert his right, as well as the prejudice and damage caused to the accused. The Speedy Trial Act of 1998, provides that the trial period for criminal cases in general shall be one hundred eighty (180) days. However, in determining the right of an accused to speedy trial, courts should do more than a mathematical computation of the number of postponements of the scheduled hearings of the case. The right to a speedy trial is deemed violated only when: (1) the proceedings are attended by vexatious, capricious, and oppressive delays; or (2) when unjustified postponements are asked for and secured; or (3) when without cause or justifiable motive a long period of time is allowed to elapse without the party having his case tried. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Tee, G.R. Nos. 140546-47. Jan. 20]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing C[illegible] Bldg
Ma-n Road, D[illegible]
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.webling.com

E. Visayas needs more teachers for 897,735 pupils

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Thousands of students trooped to their schools yesterday as the Department of Education faced the same old problems concerning the opening of classes.

The DepEd office in Eastern Visayas said 652,545 elementary pupils and 245,190 high school students were enrolled for this school year.

The figures were slightly higher compared to last year's 647,164 pupils and 227,973 students.

There are 3,509 public elementary schools with 20,725 teachers and 353 public secondary schools with 5,720 teachers in Eastern Visayas.

Jesusita Arteche, DepEd assistant regional director, said the region still lacks teachers both in the elementary and secondary schools.

The Leyte National High School (LNHS), for instance, needs six new teachers in order to achieve the ideal ratio of one teacher for every 50 students.

Only one teacher is in charge for a class of 60 students. The LNHS is the region's biggest secondary public school.

For this school year, the LNHS has more than 7,000 enrollees with only 215 teachers. The school continued to accept late enrollees yesterday. Last year, the school had 6,300 students.

Pedro Escobarte, LNHS school principal, said the school administrators decided to put up night classes to accommodate the students.

The same problem haunted the San Jose Elementary School (SJES) in Tacloban City, the biggest elementary school in Eastern Visayas.

Erlinda Agote, SJES principal, said the school needs at least 10 new teachers to handle almost 4,000 enrollees for this school year.

Last year, 3,490 kids were enrolled in the SJES, which only had 72 teachers. Its pupil to teacher ratio was one to every 46 students, slightly higher than the ideal ratio of 45 to one.

Based on a study by the DepEd-Eastern Visayas planning division, the region needs 452 new teachers—174 in the elementary schools and 278 in the secondary schools.

"We cannot just hire new teachers due to lack of funds. But we try to solve this problem by devising some schemes," Arteche told the INQUIRER.

One of these was to increase the number of pupils or students in one class.

Classes with a few enrollees were merged with other classes.

"We also try to ask the different local school boards to allocate funds for the salaries of teachers that will be hired on their respective jurisdictions," she said.

Arteche, however, admitted that the quality of education suffers if there are many students being attended to by a single teacher.

Fake dollar makers fall in Cebu raid

CEBU CITY—Government authorities arrested a couple for allegedly manufacturing fake dollar and peso bills worth "millions" in their printing press on Sikatuna Street.

THESE FAKE P500 and $100 bills were confiscated at the NRL Printers in Cebu.
RUDOLPH ALCARAZEN

Marcelino Mayuela and wife Cespeniana, both 62, and owners of NRL Printers, are now detained at the Regional Intelligence Office (RIO) on Osmeña Boulevard.

The RIO was expected to file a complaint of violation of Article 166 of the Revised Penal Code, which prohibits the production of counterfeit bills, before the Cebu City Prosecutor's Office on Monday.

Marcelino was arrested on Thursday during a buy-bust operation in an uptown hotel where millions of fake $100 bills and P500 bills were allegedly seized from him.

It was on the basis of Marcelino's arrest that the authorities were able to obtain a search warrant on the suspect's printing press.

Personnel of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) based in Manila, the RIO and Camp Crame swooped down on the printing press at about 3 p.m. Saturday.

Cespeniana was arrested during the raid where about 21 bundles of fake P500 bills and two bundles of fake $100 bills were seized. The BSP personnel would conduct an inventory on the fake bills allegedly recovered in the printing press.

A member of the raiding team, who asked not to be named, said Cespeniana tried to hide the fake bills under the table.

Authorities believed that the fake bills were ready to be shipped to Manila.

Cespeniana later told police that she did not know anything about the alleged printing of fake bills.

The couple's lawyer, Marlon Cabilan, had declined to comment, saying he had yet to study the case. But he said he had been the lawyer of the Mayuelas for 10 years but had never heard the couple engaging in illegal activity.

The police learned about the couple's alleged operation following Tuesday's arrest of two suspects in Manila who tried to slip 400 pieces of fake $100 bills and 475 pieces of P500 bills.

The suspects reportedly told authorities that their supplier was from Cebu City.

When Mayuela's name emerged in the investigation, the police and the BSP immediately conducted a surveillance operation. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Rebels torch construction equipment

CEBU CITY—Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) on Sunday night burned an equipment of a construction company in Tuburan town, 96 km north of this city.

About 20 armed men torched the crasher's switchboard of the WTG Construction in Sitio Langoyon, Barangay Mangga, about 2 km from the town proper.

Before they fled, the suspects left behind leaflets that accused the construction firm of failing to pay revolutionary taxes and of destroying the environment.

The leaflets said the rebels belonged to the NPA's Vicente Padayao Command.

PO2 Jonard Luyao, Tuburan police investigator, said WTG Construction owned by Willie Go was extracting sand and gravel along the river in Barangay Mangga.

But he added that the firm had temporarily stopped its operation for unknown reasons.

Initial investigation showed that the suspects armed with long firearms arrived at the WTG Compound at about 8 p.m.

While pointing their guns at the watchman, one of the rebels poured gasoline at the switchboard and lighted it. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

3 rebels nabbed in Nueva Ecija; clashes erupt in Bataan

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Three suspected New People's Army rebels were captured in Nueva Ecija while a firefight between a group rebels and government troops was reported in Bataan on Saturday, reports said.

In Nueva Ecija, Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said they arrested Reynan Vallejos alias Ka Jojo, 26; Domingo Gallardo alias Ka Elmer, 26; and Silverio de la Torre alias Ka Benjie, 20, at the foothills of Mt. Agsil in Barangay Conversion, Pantabangan town.

Narcise said soldiers cornered the three men when they fled from a hut they were guarding in the area. No firefight took place, he added.

Two shotguns, a 22 cal. rifle and bullets were recovered from the suspects.

In Bataan, more than 50 troops from the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion and policemen clashed with about 30 NPA rebels in five sites in Barangay Salian in Abucay town.

No one was reported hurt on the government side but Army reports claimed that some rebels could have been wounded because of the traces of blood found in the encounter sites. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Families ask Reds to immediately release 3 captives

BALANGA CITY—The parents of three men abducted by New People's Army rebels on June 11 in Abucay, Bataan, have appealed for the immediate release of their sons following renewed fighting between communist rebels and Army soldiers last week.

"If you are really sincere in claiming that you respect the rights of your captives, please allow us to see our sons and talk to them. Please release them soon," the parents said in an open letter to the NPA.

Alberto Igay, whose son Edwin was among those taken by the NPA, said the one-page letter, written in Filipino, was circulated and read in some Catholic parishes and chapels in Bataan on Sunday.

He said the rebels took Edwin, 21, and his friends Donie Valencia, 22, and Dindo Diaz, 23, on Wednesday night in Barangay Calaylayan after they failed to find two men known only as Obet and Pio.

Citing the accounts of residents in the village, Igay said the three were harmed when they resisted capture.

Igay and Teofilo Valencia, Donie's father, said they have been making the rounds of churches since Friday to solicit support for the release of their children. Diaz's mother had been hysterical and in tears since she learned of the incident.

"We have lost contact with the leader of the rebels since Thursday. We fear for the safety of our sons, now that there are encounters happening in upper Abucay," Igay said.

In a phone conversation with an NPA leader on Thursday, Igay said he was told that the three were suspected of being members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the NPA's rival group.

The NPA leader told Igay that the three men would be investigated for their alleged involvement in the killing of several NPA rebels in Pampanga and Bulacan last year.

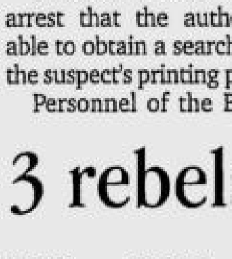
The parents insisted their sons were not RHB members.

The NPA and the RHB—the military units of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, respectively—had been involved in several clashes since 1998.

The Army and the police had traced the feud to control over turf and collection of revolutionary taxes.

"Our sons are farmers. They are plain civilians," Igay said. "Worrying over their safety is already an ordeal for us." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 400 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Kin of jailed NPA members urge speedy trial

CALAMBA CITY—Relatives of four suspected communist rebels yesterday urged the government to look into the case of their loved ones arrested four months ago in Rosario, Batangas.

The families accused the Batangas police of delaying the court hearings to "hold the four without legal basis."

"Months after they were arrested, the cases filed against my brother and his companions have not progressed. It is still on the preliminary stage of investigation. The court hearings have been reset a couple of times because the police failed to show up," Abbie Barva told the INQUIRER.

She said they have already filed a case of arbitrary detention against Batangas police director Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay and his men.

"What we want is a speedy trial. But all the police did was to delay the pleadings. We hope this will be over soon," Barva insisted.

But Magtibay denied Barva's allegations and maintained that "the evidence against the four is very strong."

"We are definitely interested in pursuing the case against the four because we have a strong case against them," Magtibay said in a cell phone interview.

He said the suspects are being held for another case involving the burning of a bus liner in Lemery town three years ago.

Police arrested Barva's brother Ivanhoe, together with companions Ricky Alla, Bernardo Dirain and Efren Baay, after intelligence reports and text messages from residents disclosed that an armed group was seen in the area.

The police later confirmed that the group was indeed a unit of the New People's Army (NPA).

The four were on board a jeepney when police sighted them in a checkpoint. Found in their possession were several hand pistols, hand grenade, anti-government documents and a laptop computer.

The police filed cases of illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions and murder relating to the killing of a barangay captain from Nasugbu, against the suspects.

Barva said she could not understand why the police refused to attend the court hearings "when after all, they were the ones who filed the court charges."

"If they (the four suspected rebels) were indeed behind the criminal activities as the police alleged, then let the wheels of justice take its course. The police should know how to respect the legal procedure," said Christian Mercado, Ivanhoe's fraternity brother in Scintilla Juris.

Barva said they have already asked help from the Department of Justice and the Department of Interior and Local Government to ensure all legal procedures are properly and promptly acted upon.

The human rights group Karapatan-Batangas said they would launch actions to speed up the release of the four captives.

"The cases filed against them are obviously tainted with political motives. The murder and arson charges have never gone through a preliminary investigation," said Karapatan spokesperson Laly Peñafranca. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Ilagan citihood bid

ILAGAN, Isabela—Local officials admitted that the second attempt of this capital town to become a city would face rough sailing in the Senate despite the cityhood bill's (House Bill 5512) approval for the third and final reading at the House of Representatives last month. Mayor Delfinito Albano said the opposition of the League of Cities of the Philippines to the creation of new cities in the country might also derail Ilagan's bid. He said the inclusion of the bill, sponsored by Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr., in the Senate's calendar would probably take months but they are still hopeful that it will be given due attention. Residents rejected the conversion of this town into a component city of Isabela on March 14, 1998, after several Catholic Church-affiliated and non-government groups opposed the bid. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NPA burns bus

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—At least 30 suspected New People's Army rebels on June 7 burned a passenger bus in Tarlac, the third torched by rebels since April, police and Army reports said. The Santrans bus was burned at 11 p.m. at Barangay Caturay in Gerona town, according to Senior Supt. Richard Wong, operations director of the Tarlac provincial police. Wong, citing the accounts of driver Carlito Salas, said at least 10 communist rebels posing as passengers boarded the bus an hour before the incident. The bus, which left its terminal in Quezon City at 8 p.m. on the same night, was bound for Dagupan City. Police said the rebels, joined by about 20 of their companions in Gerona, asked the 30 passengers to alight and to take their belongings before they burned the bus. The rebels said the bus owner refused to pay revolutionary tax. The police also blamed the NPA for similar bus burning incidents in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, on June 3 and in Capas, Tarlac, on April 7. *Tonette Orejas, Ronaldo Dizon and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Highway robbery

BAGUIO CITY—Incidents of highway robbery must be stopped to prevent investors from leaving the country, Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, Philippine National Police deputy chief for administration, said in a recent forum in this city. Aglipay, who was guest during the National Law Enforcement Council meeting at the Baguio Country Club on June 6, said more than 400 cases of highway robbery were reported from 1996 to 2002. Last year alone, 70 incidents of highway robbery and hijacking on commodities, particularly those consigned to Philippine Export Zone Authority companies, were recorded. He said the PNP and other government agencies are set to sign a memorandum of agreement with Peza companies to improve the firms' security. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Robber caught

LEGAZPI CITY—The Legazpi City Police Office captured one of their most wanted thieves and robbery men-Carlos Seva of Libon, Albay last Thursday. A police report said Seva's modus operandi was to act like a client, patient or even a helper to be able steal from and rob a certain office, clinic or store. The report added that Seva had victimized residents of Tabaco City, Camalig town, and some areas in Polangui, Albay. Police added that their witnesses have a corroborated statement against Seva who was able to steal cell phones, cash, and other valuable things inside his target place. Legazpi City police chief Francisco Uyami said they have already filed two cases against Seva, one was for robbery and the other for theft. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rice imports arrive

SOME 30 vessels carrying a total of 267,150 metric tons of rice contracted by the government from foreign countries have arrived in various ports of the country in time for the usual lean months of July to September, according to National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap. In a press statement, Yap reported that the shipments accounted for almost half of the 610,000 MT expected to be coming in from Vietnam, China and Thailand. Yap also said the rice was of good quality, attributing this to strict quality control measures being enforced by the NFA on its rice importation.

Iloilo Church leaders check entry of Bt corn

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The social action center of the Archdiocese of Jaro has asked farmers to report to their parish priests any attempt to grow genetically modified corn or Bt corn.

Fr. Meliton Oso of the Archdiocesan social action center said in a news conference on June 10 that he asked farmers affiliated with the sustainable agriculture program, to inform their priests if Bt corn seeds were being distributed in corn growing areas.

Oso said some farmers reported, that Monsanto corn seeds were seen in Sara town, 102 kilometers north of this city, but they could not determine if they were hybrid or Bt corn.

Sara and San Dionisio towns are the biggest corn growing towns in Iloilo that has the total corn area of 4,000 hectares.

"What will we do if we know there are Bt corn growing? We have to decide what to do with it. But in one area in Mindanao, farmers have uprooted Bt corn as a sign of protest," said Oso.

The Archdiocese, which administers to the spiritual needs of more than two million faithful, covers the city, Iloilo, Guimaras and the dioceses of Bacolod, Kabankalan and San Carlos in Negros Occidental and San Jose in Antique.

The Jaro Archdiocese declared its rejection of GM crops, particularly Bt corn, after the May 14 and 15 Peasant-Clergy Conference and a series of forum for priests, religious, local officials and civic leaders.

The corn is named after the soil bacterium ("Bacillus thuringiensis"), which was added to the genes of the corn to make it less vulnerable to Asiatic corn borer.

Bt corn was approved for commercialization in December 2002 by an administrative order of the Department of Agriculture after field tests conducted in Mindanao.

The transgenic corn is now being sold by giant US seed company Monsanto under the brand name YieldGard 818.

Advocates for sustainable agriculture, environmentalists and those opposed to GM crops are asking for a moratorium on Bt corn and a review of the process of its approval.

They cited the Bt corn's potential risks to human health, environment and the high cost of seeds.

The Jaro Archdiocese was also behind the move to convince officials to declare the city and province of Iloilo free of Bt corn.

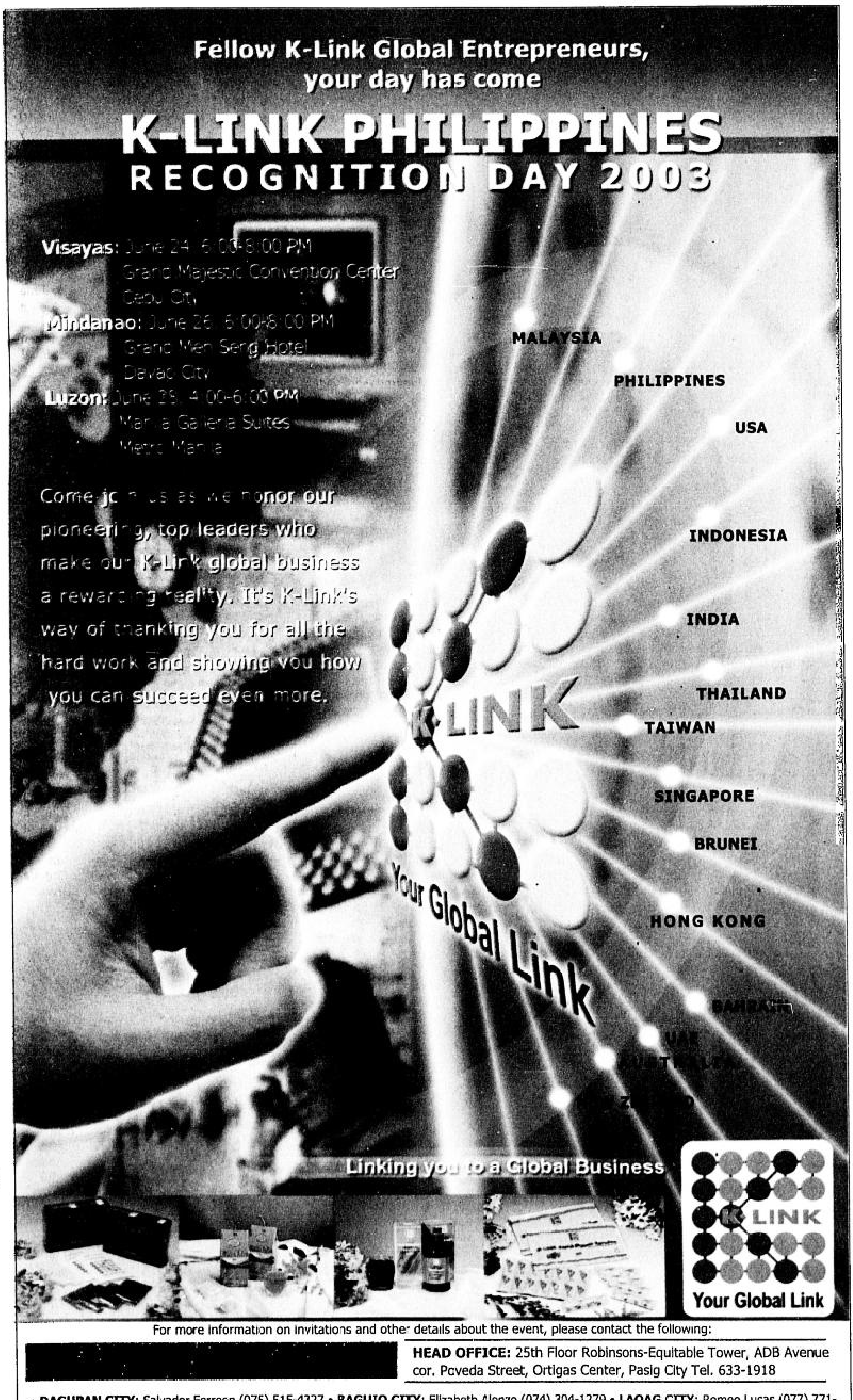
In General Santos City, officials of Barangay San Isidro have started lobbying for the lifting of the ban on Bt corn testing.

The petitioners, led by Barangay Captain Eduardo Yumang, claimed that farmers in other areas were already using Bt corn seeds and that no adverse effects on the environment and on the health of the people have so far been noted.

In 2000, the city council passed an ordinance banning the field experiments for Bt corn and other GM crops in the city.

Former mayor Adelbert Antonino even warned a multi-national seed company about sanctions if it failed to seek the city government's approval before conducting any field test. *Grace Albasin and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING
Students make a last-minute dash for school supplies in a department store in Baguio City as classes began yesterday.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU



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Malaria outbreak hits Vizcaya tribe; measles cases up in Negros

AN OUTBREAK of malaria and other water-borne diseases has struck tribal folk in Nueva Vizcaya causing several deaths and downing many villagers, the INQUIRER learned on Wednesday.

In Bacolod City, the Provincial Health Office has reported an outbreak of measles in Negros Occidental this year.

Furniture traders who came from the upland Alfonso Castañeda town said almost every Bugkalot household in Barangays Pelaway, Cawayan and neighboring villages had been afflicted with water-borne diseases.

Malaria, typhoid fever and diarrhea were said have afflicted many Bugkalot children, the traders said.

Dr. Joy Palad, health officer of Alfonso Castañeda town, confirmed the report, but explained that his office had yet to receive complete figures on the cases.

Palad, however, said at least two malaria-related deaths have been confirmed last week.

Quoting the health worker in one of the villages, Palad said numerous cases of fever and diarrhea had already been reported, which, he said, could be preliminary to malaria, typhoid fever or hepatitis.

"We just could not immediately go to the area because it is too remote," he said.

The affected villages are 70 km away from Alfonso Castañeda town proper and could be reached after three hours of travel through mountain roads.

A furniture trader said several deaths have also been reported among "lowlanders," mostly furniture makers and their workers who were in the area. They are engaged in narra trading with the Bugkalot Ancestral Land Domain of Alfonso Castañeda, a people's organization.

The source claimed that the outbreak has sent panic among businessmen in the area, prompting them to suspend their narra shipments.

Palad said he has reported the outbreak to the provincial health office and other provincial officials.

Villagers depend on the free-flowing springs from the mountainsides for their water needs, which were at times stored in small water-impounding tanks and wells.

Palad attributed the disease outbreak to the unsafe water source of the villagers, citing a previous study that found these to be unsuitable for drinking.

"Despite the warnings, people in the area went on to drink from these sources," Palad said.

Measles

Dr. Luisa Efren, PHO officer I in Bacolod City said 524 cases of measles were reported from January to May this year, a big increase compared to the 43 reported over the same period last year.

Many of these cases were reported in the cities of Himamaylan and Cadiz and in the towns of Don Salvador Benedicto and Binalbagan.

Based on their investigation, Efren said majority of those who got sick were children who did not receive an anti-measles vaccine.

Efren said the last immunization drive in Negros Occidental was in 1998 because the vaccines from the Department of Health did not arrive.

The DOH will hold a nationwide measles immunization drive in February 2004 after the World Health Organization declared that there would be a measles outbreak every three years.

But Gov. Joseph Marañon believed that if it became necessary and in view of the outbreak in the province, measles immunization in Negros Occidental would be conducted before 2004. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Shorter quarantine period for foreign vessels urged

TABACO CITY—Local businessmen and shippers are complaining about the 14-day quarantine period for incoming foreign vessels. The period was imposed at the height of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome scare last month.

But the World Health Organization has deleted the Philippines in its SARS-infected list.

Businessmen had complained of the delayed arrival of their products that led to miscalculation of stocks and sales to their distributors, the INQUIRER learned.

This prompted Councilor Lemuel Obed to recommend during last Monday's session of the council to amend the city ordinance adopting the Department of Health's advisory on a 14-day quarantine period for foreign port entrants.

Mayor Alex Burce said he understood the sentiments of the businessmen and shippers since the policy would mean an added burden to their business transactions, but he said the public interest must prevail.

Burce said that unless DOH lifts the 14-day quarantine measure, the city policy would remain in effect.

Obed said officials of the Bureau of Customs told him that some vessels opt to dock in other ports, instead at Tabaco.

Nestor San Pablo, ship operator and chair of the committee on health, said he was not in favor of amending the resolution. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

RP drug users hit 3.4M

From page A1

The profiles of suspects SPO4 Florante Vida and PO1 Brandy Dacal were as alarming as their arrest, said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP information office chief.

Vida's long service indicates extensive involvement with drug syndicates, according to Bataoil. Vida is 55 and is set to retire next year. Dacal, a rookie policeman at 29, turned from a promising young officer into a despised rogue cop.

"They should serve as an example to policemen involved in illegal drugs," Bataoil told the Inquirer.

Vida, a member of the Caloocan police, was arrested in Cavite on the strength of a warrant issued by Imus Judge Lucenito Tagle.

The officer's house in Indang yielded 36 grams of *shabu* sealed in several plastic sachets and six tablets marked "M359" believed to be Ecstacy pills, investigation showed.

Vida will be slapped with criminal and administrative charges and would most likely be stripped of all benefits upon his retirement, Bataoil said.

PO1 Dacal, on the other hand, yielded a sachet of *shabu* during a buy-bust operation at Unit 2, Pagrai Hills in Barangay Mayamot over the weekend.

Antipolo police also arrested Dacal's companions identified as Vicente Cuadra, 45, and his wife Josephine, 39; Eddie Lupo, 32, and Pedro Aquino, 34.

Harsh anti-drugs law

Barbers pointed out that Congress had already enacted a "very harsh" anti-drugs law—Republic Act No. 9165—but this would be put to naught, he said, if the PNP was filled with scalawags.

"You get 12 years in prison even if you are caught with only a small amount of drugs," Avenido said.

A drug pusher caught with 50 grams of *shabu* faces life imprisonment. Law enforcers will also get stiff penalties if they bungle drug cases.

Those who "plant evidence" will get the death penalty while those who do not attend hearings can get up to 12 years in prison, according to Avenido.

Barbers acknowledged that the PNP and other law enforcement agencies were doing something about the menace. "They have busted many (shabu) laboratories," he said

Over the past 10 months, law enforcers have arrested 6,500 drug traffickers, according to Avenido. Under RA 9165, the traffickers can no longer post bail.

Lawmen also confiscated P5-billion worth of illegal drugs and drug laboratory equipment, the PDEA chief said.

Avenido said the PDEA, which became operational only 10 months ago, has already arrested the "increasing trend of drug use."

"Proof of this is that *shabu* is now becoming expensive," he said.

He said the street value of high-grade *shabu* dropped to P500 per gram from P2,000 last year. "The cheap ones being sold in the streets are low grade," which cause more damage to the user's brains, Avenido said.

He said the illegal drugs trade could be put under control by 2010. "If we work together, I'm sure we will attain our goals by 2010."

Drug test

The arrest of the two policemen came in the wake of an ambitious drive to purge the entire PNP, Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies of all drug users and pushers.

The main strategy—a nationwide drug test—had initially found eight policemen led by a chief inspector positive for the use of banned substances.

The number yesterday climbed to 11 after the National Capital Region Police Office announced that three of its men showed traces of illegal drugs in their urine samples.

Like the "Magic 8," the three officers will be presented to the public once the PNP Crime Laboratory confirms the initial findings, police said.

"The number (of drug users in uniform), though relatively small, is alarming and the PNP won't stop until all officers are cleared," Bataoil said.

MILF doesn't want Salamat to head peace panel

From page A1

tary offensive against the MILF in parts of Mindanao even though the rebels are observing a short-term unilateral ceasefire.

She said the military campaign was necessary to weed out "terrorist cells" being harbored by the MILF, a charge the rebels deny.

Kabalu said there has been "100-percent compliance" by the MILF with its self-declared truce, although the rebel group rejected military demands for a permanent ceasefire.

Legal requirements

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the MILF should take it upon itself to comply with the legal requirements to allow Salamat to lead its side in the peace talks.

Bunye said the MILF could always petition the courts to make appropriate adjustments in their position to lift the warrants of arrest on Salamat.

"We cannot order the courts because they are supposed to be independent," Salamat said.

On whether Salamat would be arrested, Bunye said: "I guess the MILF should read between the lines. There is an avenue for them to explore but they can still participate, but within the legal process."

Bunye said the government would continue its "selective, punitive" operations despite the failure of the Armed Forces to arrest the two top leaders of the MILF in a raid on Sunday.

"We win some, we lose some. We would like to get perpetrators brought to justice as soon as possible but there are some circumstances beyond the control of those executing the order of the President," he said.

Meanwhile, without a shot being fired, four MILF commanders and 50 of their followers surrendered to government troops after running out of food and other provisions in Lanao del Norte on Sunday afternoon, officials said yesterday.

The separatist rebels turned themselves in to Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade and Col. Armando Cunanan of Task Force Diamond, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Kakilala said.

The commanders were identified as Guiling Lucsadatu, alias Commander Lucky Seven; Arafat Pama, alias Commander Arafat; Murad Lucsadatu, alias Commander Mudskie, and Commander Macri.

The guerrillas belonged to the groups of MILF leaders Yahyah Lucsadatu, alias Commander Yahyah; Abduallah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, and Commander Minsupala, Kakilala said.

Yahyah Lucsadatu, Macapaar and Minsupala have been tagged by the military as the masterminds of the MILF attack on Maigo, Lanao del Norte, on April 26, which left 13 civilians dead. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan, TJ Burgonio, AFP*

STUDENTS of the Baguio Central School find themselves stranded as storm "Egay" dumps heavy rains on the city. TOOTS SOBERANO

Paglas apologizes for giving in to 'yearnings' of heart'

From page A1

danaw co-chair Howard Dee to issue a clarification last Saturday and stress that the "mutual assurance" from the MILF and the military to stay away from Inug-ug was "limited" to that village.

'Unintended announcements'

Through Soliman, the Inquirer obtained a copy of Paglas' June 14 letter where he profusely apologized for "those unintended announcements and other declarations of mine."

"While reading the rest of the text of the message, in a sudden twist of emotion after seeing the faces of my fellow Muslims, I did not immediately realize (that) I was already pouring out the yearnings of my heart," wrote Paglas, a former mayor of Datu Paglas town.

"I started talking about my own feelings ... of seeing not just the people of Inug-ug in Pagalungan but also other towns in Maguindanao and in fact other provinces of Mindanao ... who are entitled to peace and (a) normal life," he added.

Paglas said it was "inexcusable" for him to have "mixed my personal emotions" with Salamat's message, which was intended for a "highly structured program like a presidential visit."

He apologized to President Macapagal, his uncle, the military and the civic and religious groups behind the peace declaration.

Central committee

The MILF's central committee, its highest policy-making body, also disowned the letter.

However, it even disowned the previous MILF guarantee to respect Inug-ug's declaration as a peace sanctuary.

Mohagher Iqbal, the rebel group's chief information officer, said that as far as the MILF central committee was concerned, there was no such letter declaring a peace sanctuary in the municipalities of Pagalungan and SK Pendatun in Maguindanao, and Pikit in North Cotabato.

Over a local radio station here, Paglas asked members of the MILF central committee to first check the veracity of the statement with Salamat himself, before disowning it.

But Iqbal would not budge.

He quoted Salamat as having said to him: "Please strongly deny my alleged letter to (President) GMA. I have never written any letter to anybody in the Philippines. The alleged letter is false and fabricated. It's part of their (government officials') deception tactics."

Instead, the MILF chair warned of a possible resumption of hostilities in Mindanao after the MILF's extended 10-day unilateral ceasefire expires on June 22 without a positive response from the government.

The warning was embodied in a June 15 press release that Iqbal prepared for Salamat.

Confusion

The confusion over Paglas' reading of the letter, and Iqbal's statement, prompted a worried letter from Archbishop of Cotabato Orlando Quevedo.

Quevedo, also the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, clarified that in fact only the community of Inug-ug had declared itself a peace sanctuary. But "the disturbing statement of Mr. Iqbal that the Sanctuary of Peace declared by the people may not hold after" the ceasefire expires "compels us to seek clarification."

Quevedo also issued a statement to "defend the reputation of Tabang Mindanaw"—the multisectoral humanitarian group behind the peace sanctuaries.

"I was shocked to read in the newspapers the MILF was WITHDRAWING (sic) its forces from the municipalities mentioned. That is totally false. That is not what the MILF letter said." *Reports from Edwin Fernandez, Nash Maulana and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mother, 2 young sons drown in Samar

From page A1

er bureau said.

The Office of Civil Defense in Eastern Visayas (OCD-8) identified the fatalities as Lorna Dacoma, 27, and her sons Arvin, 10, and Mark, 3. Still missing was her daughter Frankie. Their father Renato Dacoma, 30, survived.

A neighbor identified as Leo Tapalla also drowned when the Antiao River swelled in Barangay Canlapwas in Catbalogan.

The Dacoma family lived near the river. At the height of Egay, the Dacoma couple and their three children were sleeping and did not notice that the river had started to swell.

Floodwaters swept their house, which was made of light materials. Their neighbors recovered the bodies of Lorna and her two sons floating in the river on Sunday morning.

Adriano Fuego, OCD-8 regional director, said the Catbalogan police have formed a search and rescue team to look for Frankie.

Two families composed of 20 persons in Barangay Canlapwas were evacuated to higher ground because of the floods, Fuego said.

A total of 60 families in Catbalogan and in Naval and Biliran, Biliran, had been displaced by the tropical storm as of 2 p.m. yesterday.

In Leyte, a number of families were also evacuated after floods hit Barangays San Juan, Liloan, Libertad and Lao in Ormoc City.

Power had yet to be restored in the town proper of Catarman after strong winds toppled several trees that hit transmission lines.

In Allen, Northern Samar, 2,514 passengers bound for Manila were stranded after their ferry was not allowed to leave port because of strong winds and rains.

Fuego said the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council in Allen distributed food packs consisting of rice, sardines, noodles and coffee to the stranded passengers.

A total of 11,524 people, including 8,960 in the Bicol region and 2,564 in Eastern Visayas, were stranded due to the foul weather, according reports reaching the Office of Civil Defense in Camp Aguinaldo.

Trucks, buses

The floods in Matnog and Pilar towns in Sorsogon stranded some 3,300 passengers on board 67 trucks, 70 buses, 45 light vehicles and 68 passenger vehicles. The passengers had waited for the Coast Guard to let them travel to Samar and other parts of the Visayas.

At the port in Tabaco City in Albay, some 500 motor vehicles, including 21 buses, were also stranded. Mayor Alex Burce rented the comfort rooms of Mae Inn for the stranded passengers.

In Sorsogon, the provincial board authorized Gov. Raul Lee to appropriate funds for Buenavista, a barangay in Castilla town hit by the twister, and for the towns of Pilar, Bulan and Matnog to help them extend assistance to passengers stranded at their ports.

Heavy rains flooded low-lying towns of Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon and Masbate.

The Disaster Coordinating Council in Albay reported flooding in Tabaco City and the towns of Oas, Ligao and Polangui.

In Oas and Polangui, the heavy flow of water along the Maharlika Highway stranded vehicles.

Lake Buhi

In Camarines Sur, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council reported that Lakes Buhi, Bato and Baao overflowed due to heavy rains, affecting Oas, Ligao and Libon in neighboring Albay.

Apolinar Felipe, Traffic Management Group regional director, cautioned motorists against passing through those towns.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) lifted the typhoon signal in Sorsogon at 10 a.m. yesterday, prompting authorities to allow passengers to go on with their trips, except those in the ports of Albay, as the province was still under Storm Signal No. 1. Camarines Norte was still under Signal No. 2 at press time.

Reports from Pagasa said Storm Signal No. 2 was hoisted over Nueva Vizcaya, the Batanes group of islands, Quirino, Apayao, Kalinga, Ilocos Norte, Polillo Islands, northern Aurora, Abra, Ifugao and Mt. Province.

Although classes in Cagayan and Isabela were suspended, those in other parts of the region that did not experience heavy rains and strong winds were not.

At least 265,000 students in Isabela were sent home when classes were suspended. "It was very sad that during our first day of classes, we experienced a storm and the planned lessons and school activities did not push through," said Benito Tumamao, Isabela schools division superintendent.

Many parts of Isabela also experienced intermittent power interruptions.

In Nueva Ecija, heavy rains did not dampen the enthusiasm of thousands of elementary and high school students in the province.

"Classes started right away as the students and teachers were already in school. Our school year opening went smoothly," said Dr. Sotera Cruz, Cabanatuan schools division superintendent. *Reports from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau; Ronnie Lorejo, Job Belen, Gil Francis Arevalo and Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez and Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and TJ Burgonio in Manila*

Sandigan told Erap case 'one in a million'

From page A1

exempted from the rule of law. But inside, his new lawyer argued exactly just that.

Speaking before three visibly amused justices of the Sandiganbayan, Alan Paguia asked the anti-graft court to "reverse" a key Supreme Court ruling because Estrada's legal predicament—ousted as President and now facing a historic plunder trial—was a "one-in-a-million case."

Yesterday's hearing took up Paguia's motion to force President Macapagal-Arroyo, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and five other public officials to testify.

"Any lower court cannot reverse the ruling of the higher court. Due process of law is the general rule, we are not setting aside that doctrine, but this is a one-in-a-million case," Paguia said.

Replying to questions from Justice Edilberto Sandoval, Paguia explained that Estrada's case was exceptional because it was "the first time in the history of the world where a sitting president" lost powers to his vice president who "was able to successfully grab presidential power from him."

In an interview afterward, Paguia said the decision of the Supreme Court was "binding to (sic) us all," but only "under ordinary circumstances."

"But this is precisely an extraordinary circumstance where the justices occupying the Supreme Court are the very ones charged of (sic) having violated the Constitution," he said.

Estrada, through another lawyer, ex-Sen. Rene Saguisag, has filed an impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives against Davide and other justices for having allegedly prejudged the issue on the validity of the Macapagal administration.

Paguia wants the Sandiganbayan to declare the justices as being "disqualified from hearing and deciding on the Estrada-versus-Arroyo case." Such a ruling would, in effect, result in the Sandiganbayan dismissing the plunder charges against Estrada for lack of jurisdiction.

"What the Sandiganbayan will be doing is to merely recognize the operation of the law as null and void," he said.

Asked by Presiding Justice Minita Nazario whether an affirmative ruling on his motion would "open the floodgates" and drive other litigants to the anti-graft body to seek a reversal of an SC ruling, Paguia said this would not happen.

"This case is one in a million. I do not suppose all other cases involve a sitting president. I do not suppose all the other cases involve Edsa II. I do not suppose all other cases involve a clear violation of the justices of the Supreme Court of the exercise of their duties," he said.

During the hearing, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio shot down Paguia's motion, saying Estrada's new lawyer had failed to cite a single established point of jurisprudence on the matter.

Villa-Ignacio said the motion was merely intended to ask the Sandiganbayan to reverse a 13-0 decision of the Supreme Court.

Morning hearing

Estrada arrived at the hearing at 9 in the morning, accompanied by son Jinggoy Estrada, his co-accused who is out on bail, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa and ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. Son JV Ejercito, the incumbent mayor of San Juan, arrived about 15 minutes before his father.

Wearing a barong Tagalog and black pants, Estrada proceeded straight up to the front seats. As he passed by, Estrada loyalists—mostly matrons in red and orange dress—stood up to shake hands with him.

In an impromptu news briefing called after the two-hour hearing, Estrada also called on lawyers, law students and members of the judiciary to be "vigilant and see to it that we'll be given due process."

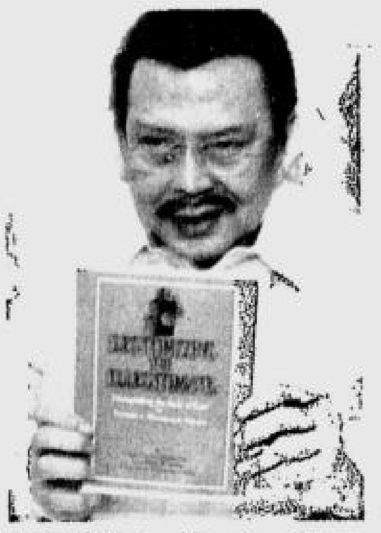
He rejected allegations that he intended to destroy the Supreme Court and put Congress on notice that voters would punish those who support the "whitewash" of his impeachment complaint against the eight jurists.

"They say that we are attacking the Supreme Court or the institution. No, we are not," Estrada said.

"We believe in the Supreme Court, we believe in the institution but not the justices who committed a violation of the Constitution."

In spite of the exemption his own lawyer was seeking from him, Estrada said he had always abided by the law, even submitting himself to an impeachment trial in the Senate.

"I never said that I'm above the rule of law," he said. *With a report from AFP*



DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada shows off the book "Legitimizing the Illegitimate," written by three students of the UP College of Law, to the media at the Sandiganbayan yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

RP, not US, will decide on GMA bid—Ricciardone

From page A1

just obtained her certification for open water diver.

The US Ambassador visited Silliman University on Sunday and met with university officials and beneficiaries of the US International Visitor program.

Political developments

Despite Ricciardone's hands-off stance, the speculation over 2004 continued to heat up.

Malacañang was hounded by questions about the President's appointment of former Press Secretary Hernani Braganza as presidential adviser on political affairs (Papa) and the designation of the current Papa, Lakas national executive director Jose Ma. Rufino, as presidential liaison officer on political affairs.

If she's not running in 2004, why did she have to appoint a presidential adviser on political affairs, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye was asked.

"The office is always there whether there's an election or not. This position acquires more importance if there's an election," Bunye said in a briefing.

Bunye said the Palace did not expect a conflict between Braganza and Rufino, who would both be dealing with "political affairs."

Rufino's position, like that of Braganza, carries Cabinet rank.

Rufino did not sound pleased with the appointment.

"Well, we just have to observe and go along. That is the decision so we just have to see what will happen next," Rufino said in a radio interview.

The Palace rigodon began with Ms Macapagal's appointment of Press Undersecretary Milton Alingod as the new press secretary.

When asked if the unexpected reshuffle would cause him to leave the party, Rufino said: "We'll cross the bridge when we get there."

Asked if he felt bad about the decision, Rufino said: "No reason to be. I just want to serve, we're not clinging to our position. We serve at the discretion of the President."

Running mate

Despite Ms Macapagal's own statements, the ruling Lakas party is already looking for her running mate in next year's elections.

Sen. Robert Barbers admitted during the Kapihan sa Maynila forum that some Lakas officials were prodding him to be Ms Macapagal's running mate.

"They have already (made the offer)," said Barbers. "But I will not volunteer. If it would be given to me, (I should be) endorsed (first) by the party, then I will accept (the offer)."

Barbers disclosed that Lakas stalwarts wanted Ms Macapagal to be the party's standard-bearer.

He also disclosed that the party wanted the President to make up her mind not later than August.

"You know, it's better to be early in making the announcement," said Barbers. He said there was a strong possibility Ms Macapagal would run.

Should the President not run, however, the ruling party and its allies would push for the candidacy of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

"I think it would be Cojuangco. Some Lakas congressmen have already expressed their preference for him through a resolution," Barbers said.

Asked if he was willing to be Cojuangco's running mate, Barbers said: "I will (run as vice president) of anybody who's the official candidate of the party and the coalition."

As to accusations that Cojuangco had enriched himself during the martial law period, particularly through the coconut levy, Barbers said: "You cannot satisfy everybody."

Another senator who has endorsed Cojuangco, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara, has found himself in trouble with his partymates for partying with Cojuangco in the United States.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the LDP party wants to hear from Angara upon his return so they could settle once and for all whom the LDP would support as its presidential candidate in 2004.

"We're wondering why he can't find time to convene the party and yet find time to be with Danding in the US," Padilla told reporters.

Key messenger

Another senator, Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, is convinced that Cojuangco is gunning for the presidency next year—because it was veteran newsman and former Press Secretary Rod Reyes who announced it.

"Reyes is a very careful man, and he's the spokesman of sorts (of Cojuangco) and that means he's in the know," Flavier told reporters.

Flavier also disclosed that former Sen. Ernesto Maceda had recently told him that Cojuangco was on the verge of being convinced to run for president.

"*Nakikiliti na siya* (He's beginning to like the idea)," he said, as he noted that Maceda was "very close" to Cojuangco.

But the politician arguably closest to Cojuangco, his nephew Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, said the founder of the Nationalist Peoples Coalition was still weighing his options.

"Nobody has the right to speak on his behalf on the matter," said, Teodoro, who heads the NPC, the second biggest party in Congress. "It is not fair to jump the gun on him," he said. *With reports from Juliet Javellana, Cynthia Balana, Christine Avendano, Carlito Pablo and Michael Lim Ubac*

Terrorism, Suu Kyi top Asean agenda

From page A1

eign ministers in the Cambodian capital, Burma also came under pressure to release Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

In his keynote speech, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed worry that terror attacks, like the Bali carnage last year in Indonesia, could stifle the flow of investments crucial to the region's economic growth.

The terror attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001 and other recent events "require us to exert our best efforts to strengthen our solidarity and take firm measures to maintain public security and political and economic stability," Hun Sen said.

Such efforts "will protect the Asean as a productive investment destination and the epicenter of peace and prosperity," he added.

The Asean ministers in a statement released Monday before the conclusion of the talks "emphasized the need to address the root causes of terrorism and rejected any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, race, nationality or ethnic group."

Suu Kyi

In a significant move for the 10-member bloc, however, the foreign ministers voiced their concern over the developments in Burma, particularly the detention of Suu Kyi.

Asean has long followed a policy of not commenting on its members' internal affairs and the decision to discuss Suu Kyi at all reflects the growing international pressure on Burma's military regime to release the Nobel laureate.

"All of us in Asean wish Aung San Suu Kyi will be free, to be able to do what she would like to do," Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong said.

"But we don't do it in a confrontational manner. We don't do it in a way that make people feel completely unpleasant about it."

Suu Kyi was detained on May 30 after a clash between her supporters and a pro-government crowd in northern Burma. The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner has been kept incommunicado since then, triggering international outcry.

US Secretary of State Collin Powell last week urged Burma's neighbors to put pressure on its military rulers, calling them democracy-oppressing "thugs." But Ong said other important issues need to be discussed.

Terrorism

Terrorism will be a major topic during discussions on Wednesday and Thursday at the 23-member Asean Regional Forum (ARF), the sole Asia-Pacific security forum that includes the United States, China, Russia, Japan and the European Union (EU).

The Bali bombings, which killed more than 200 people, were allegedly carried out by the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the Southeast Asian chapter of the al-Qaida terror network. JI hideouts have been exposed in many Asean member states.

In recent weeks, Cambodia and Thailand joined Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia in arresting suspected JI members, signaling that the threat is a bigger regional problem.

Officials also said the Asean and the United States would soon endorse a five-point counterterrorism work plan that would involve US help in safeguard shipping in the vital Malacca Strait and the sharing of intelligence information.

The plan was developed following an agreement reached between Washington and Asean in July last year to devise mechanisms "to prevent, disrupt and combat international terrorism."

"Some of the counterterrorism measures in the plan can be launched immediately while the rest will be carried out in the next 12 months," Ong said.

The narrow Malacca Strait straddling Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore has been notorious for piracy and security experts warned recently that terrorists could be roaming the waterway to hijack ships.

"We cannot take chances. Terrorists can just hijack an oil tanker and blow it up on Singapore shores. So we have to be prepared," a Western diplomat who saw the work plan told AFP.

Powell, scheduled to arrive in the Cambodian capital late Tuesday, is expected to go over details of the plan when he meets with his Asean counterparts on Thursday.

North Korea

Powell will also try to muster support at the Asean Regional Forum to help defuse the standoff over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programs.

Tensions in the region have been mounting since last October when US officials said North Korea admitted having a covert nuclear program. The Asean ministers want assurances that war will not break out.

"A nuclear-weapons free Korea and a peaceful resolution to the current tension through dialogue" is essential for peace in the region, the Asean foreign ministers said in a draft joint communique to be issued Tuesday.

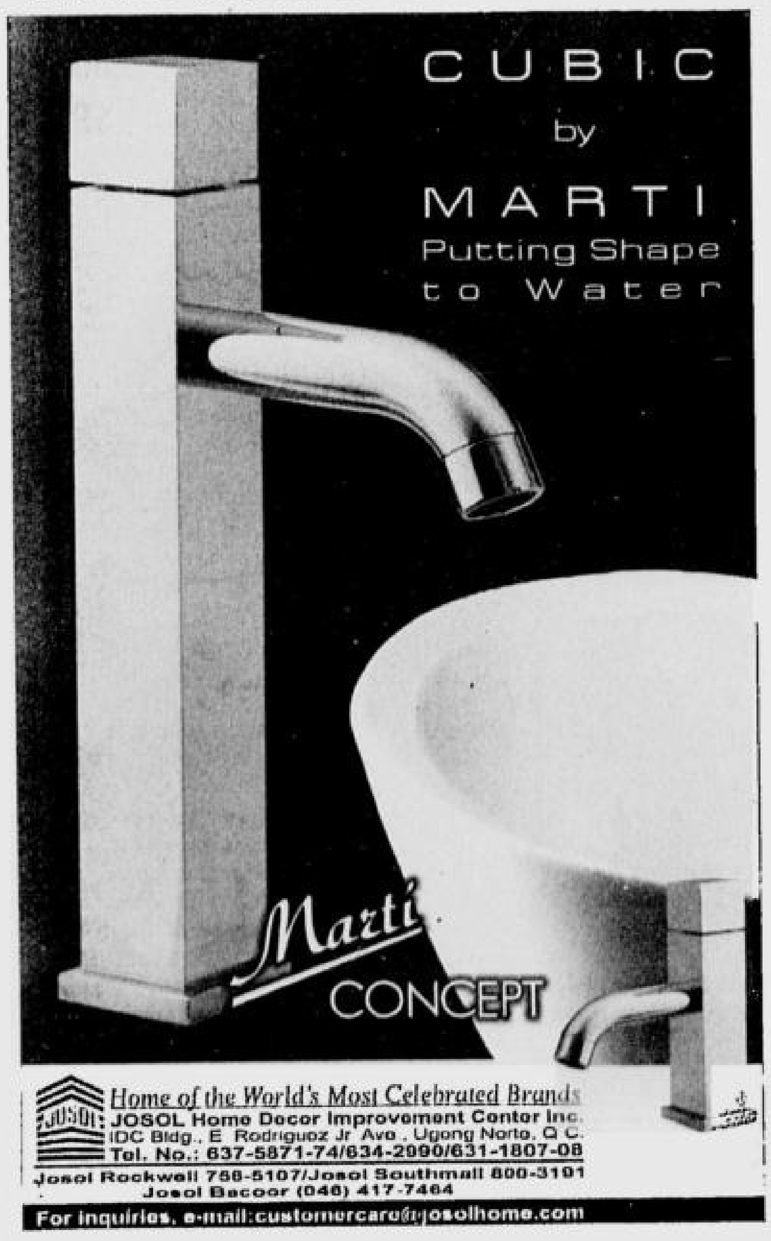
Asean had hoped North Korean Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun would attend the Phnom Penh meeting. the North Korean delegation, however, is being led by diplomat Ho Jong, who arrived Monday.

Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said the Asean would urge Pyongyang to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, "but North Korea should also feel secure that it will not face any aggression."

North Korea withdrew from the treaty and restarted its nuclear facilities after Washington suspended free oil shipments. Last week, Pyongyang threatened to develop a nuclear arsenal to deter US hostility.

The Asean groups Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ARF comprises Asean plus Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Mongolia, North and South Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Russia and the United States. *Reports by AFP and AP*



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NBI doctor in bribery rap released

From page A1

agency was still collating evidence against the former medico-legal officer.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco relieved Reyes of his post on Saturday after he was caught extorting money from Dr. Lenette Chan of Carmen, Pangasinan inside Reyes' office at NBI headquarters in Manila. He is the first high-ranking official of the NBI to get the axe under Wycoco's watch.

Ricardo Diaz, head of NBI-Interpol, told reporters that Reyes was not accorded any special treatment. "We even arrested him," he said.

"Before we can file the charges, we need to have the copy of the complaint, the lab test confirming he received the money, and several other documents," Diaz said.

Diaz said the problem was that Chan, the complainant, had sought help not just from the NBI, but also from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Reaction (Pacer) team.

"We need to gather all the documents they have on the case," Diaz said.

The Interpol chief added the public need not worry that Reyes might escape. "The NBI can catch him if he decides to disappear," Diaz said.

The holiday on Friday also contributed to the delay in the filing of charges, according to Tenerife.

He said he had talked to Reyes at least two times after the latter's arrest. "He said he will be available when he is needed, but he told me he is not going to the NBI today," Tenerife said. Reyes is apparently on leave.

Reyes has denied the allegations against him. "Over the phone, he said he knew nothing about the bribery charge. I advised him to get a lawyer. I told him that is the best thing he can do under the circumstances," Tenerife said.

The deputy director also said the NBI may form a team to study and review the cases Reyes handled. "We are still thinking of how to go about it. We will consult experts on this matter," he said.

Saddened

At Reyes' former office, colleagues told the INQUIRER that his "abrupt" departure had saddened them. "We miss him already," a veteran medico-legal officer told the INQUIRER.

The doctor, who asked not to be named, said Reyes had been like a father to them. "We are still very shocked by this revelation. He never seemed to be someone who would accept bribes. We hope the allegation is not true," the doctor said.

Other colleagues who were present during the entrapment operation last Thursday recalled that they saw nothing unusual that day.

"There were a lot of people outside. Two people came in, but we saw nothing unusual with that," a female staffer said. "We don't know that was it already," she said.

Tenerife said he had recommended two doctors as possible replacements for Reyes. They are Dr. Valentin Bernales, assistant chief and current officer in charge of NBI's medico-legal team, and Dr. Renato Bautista, the agency's most senior medical officer and next in rank to Bernales.

Jeepney kills Grade 2 pupil, hits another

Victims were walking home from first day of school

By Luigi del Puerto

YESTERDAY was the first day of school for Grade 2 pupil Alfred Descalzo, 8. It was however also his last.

Descalzo and a neighbor, 7-year-old Jerome Rodriquez, were on their way home before noon when they were hit by a passenger jeepney driven by Renante Solayna in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Descalzo died on the spot while Rodriguez was rushed to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center where he was confined but was reported in stable condition.

According to SPO1 Manolito Zapata, the boys, both of Tindalo Street, Tondo, were crossing Tayuman corner Ipil streets when the jeepney suddenly appeared.

The victims had just come from their classes from the Andres Bonifacio Elementary School in Sta. Cruz.

Zapata said Descalzo's father, Willie, was passing by on a motorcycle and witnessed the incident.

Willie related to the police that he had a bad feeling so he came closer only to discover that his son had been involved.

Meanwhile, Solayna of Lagman Street, Manila, and who was plying the Divisoria-Blumentritt route, was mauled by bystanders. He also had to be taken to the hospital for treatment.

Solayna later told SPO4 Roberto Baldivas of the WPD-Traffic Group, that he did not see where the kids came from.

Solayna is detained at the Western Police District headquarters facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and physical injuries.

Prevent crime: Don't bring your cell phones

By Tina Santos

TO CURB incidents of cell phone snatching, particularly in places near the schools, Northern Police District Director Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr., has only one solution: Do not bring your cell phones.

Franco yesterday told students in the Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) area to do just this.

"We urge parents to stop their children, especially those in elementary school, from bringing their cell phones to school. Anyway they can't use it while they're in class," Franco said.

The district director's advice came after he received mounting complaints regarding cell phone snatching incidents in northern Metro Manila.

He said most of the victims were students.

"Cell phone snatching is one of the many concerns school administrators have raised," Franco said.

"The students are very vulnerable. They are the usual victims of pickpockets and snatchers. So I think the best way to avoid getting victimized is for them not to bring their phones to school."

If they cannot avoid bringing their cell phones, Franco offers another piece of advice: Do not flaunt them.

"At least be responsible and not show them off," Franco said.

Meanwhile, he said security for schools in northern Metro Manila was already in place for the reopening of schools.

PACER
DETAINEE

BAD CORE
The Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response yesterday presented to media five alleged core group members of the Hermano-Pementera, one of the five remaining active kidnap-for-ransom groups in the country. They are from left Armando Dionaldo, Renato Dionaldo, Virgilio Varona, Rodolfo Lorido and Mariano Garegis.
JOAN BONDOC

Paco flock sign up for Bacani

By Margaux Ortiz

PARISHIONERS of San Fernando de Dilao Church in Paco, Manila, launched on Sunday a signature campaign in support of embattled Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

Pia Cinco, head of the parish pastoral council and a teacher at Paco Elementary School for 37 years, said members of the parish which Bacani headed for 11 years still believed in him as a pastor despite recent accusations hurled against him.

"We think it is his stature as a bishop that motivated people to feast on the issue," Cinco said, speaking in behalf of the members of the pastoral council and heads of the various church organizations who have expressed full support for the prelate.

Cinco related that under Bacani's leadership from 1984 to 1995, the parishioners received various pastoral formation and family life programs that have enriched their lives.

She added that Bacani was not only effective on the pulpit but also with the pen, saying a book by the bishop, "The Discipleship of Filipinos," had earned the admiration of Catholics worldwide.

"We just hope that the truth will come out and the people who are in charge of the investigation will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit," Cinco said.

Cinco added that as soon as they have collected enough signatures, the parishioners would give the list to different media organizations as support for their beloved leader.

"He was a charitable and generous bishop," Cinco said. "We are fervently praying that something good will come out of this mess."

Police chief sacked over jailbreak

By Jerome Aning

SECRETARY Jose Lina of the Department of Interior and Local Government yesterday ordered the relief of the warden of the municipal jail in Taytay, Rizal, following the escape of three inmates over the weekened.

At the same time, Lina ordered the immediate transfer of the 25 inmates of the Taytay jail to the district jail in Teresa, Rizal, "for security reasons and to enable the sacked warden's replacement to map out new strategies to prevent a repeat of the incident."

Ordered relieved was jail warden Senior Insp. Bernardo Ruiz, whom Lina held directly responsible for the escape of detainees James Villafuerte, Allan Toledo and Jose Mendoza.

Senior Insp. Manuel Leviste took over the post of Ruiz.

Lina disclosed that three additional jail personnel would be assigned to the Taytay jail.

Lina said wardens of all city, district and municipal jails nationwide should implement tight security measures in and around jail premises to prevent escapes.

"Let his incident underscore the need for all our wardens and jail guards to be alert and on their toes all the time," he added.

DILG undersecretary for peace and order Marius Corpus, citing a report from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, said the three suspects escaped between midnight and 1 a.m. amid a heavy downpour. They cut the overhead grills of their cell using a hacksaw blade.

Corpus said a manhunt had been launched for the fugitives.

Rallies...

From page A18

ga National High School in San Fernando, Pampanga yesterday boycotted the first day of classes to rally at the Department of Education office in Pasig City.

About 90 teachers and staff yesterday asked DepEd officials to appoint Imelda Macaspac as their permanent school principal.

Instead of listening to the teachers, DepEd Undersecretary Miguel Luz reprimanded the teachers for abandoning their students. *Leila Salaverria, Tina Santos, Margaux Ortiz, Dona Pazzibugan, Jerome Aning, and Nelson Flores*

800,000 new students get...

From page A18

Some home activities are assigned to compensate for the time that was cut.

Fornoles said that the scheme has no significant effects on the performance of students.

It's the same—the students do not perform that well," she said in Filipino.

Books are provided, but are shared by at least two students.

The high school teaching staff is also undermanned.

According to Department of Education Undersecretary for Operations Ramon Bacani, Caloocan needs around 1000 teachers.

"The national government has no budget for the additional teachers this year," Bacani said.

He added that they are tapping local governments to fund the hiring of additional teachers.

"But the (Caloocan government) can only provide 300," Bacani said.

DepEd regional director Corazon Santiago was "clearly surprised" at the 300,000 new enrollees in Metro Manila public schools this year, according to Gascon.

From 1.8 million last year, the total enrollment this year rose to 2.1 million.

At the Batasan National High School in Quezon City, which DepEd officials visited yesterday, eight classes were held at the covered court.

At the Marikina High School, not only were some classes held at the covered court but the students also sat on the hard floor due to an acute shortage of armchairs.

Maybe in some public schools, the shortage is reaching breaking point, but not in all schools, Gascon said.

Based on a projected enrollment of 17.2 million, the DepEd said almost 5 million children would not have seats inside classrooms.

Sexual harassment in workplaces common

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT complaint against Catholic Bishop Teodoro Bacani by his former secretary brings into sharp focus the sexual harassment in the workplace that is very common in this country.

From an office employer to an employer in the home, the modus operandi is the same: "Give me sexual favors and I will increase your salary. Turn me down and you get fired."

Employers, supervisors or superiors in offices take advantage of their positions to obtain sexual favors from their female subordinates. In the home, the "master of the house" crawls up to the maid's room at night and coerces the poor girl to have sex with him.

* * *

Despite the law against sexual harassment passed in 1995, sexual harassment in the offices and the homes continues.

Is it because of the light penalty under that law? Persons found guilty of sexual harassment are liable to a maximum jail term of six months and a P20,000 fine.

Most victims don't report sexual harassment by their superiors for fear of losing their jobs or public humiliation.

* * *

In my public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," most of the complainants are domestics from the provinces.

One such case involved a Quezon City cop, SPO1 Cesar Gelido, who would peep on his maids while they were taking a bath or barge into their room while they were changing clothes.

My staff brought the complaint against Gelido to the internal affairs service of the police district where he is assigned. But the investigation of the complaint is taking very long to finish.

* * *

A couple of years ago, a female court employee came to me complaining against a regional trial court judge in Pasig for touching her private parts and kissing her while they were alone in the judge's office.

The woman did not pursue the complaint even with much prodding from us at "Isumbong" after the judge talked to her.

The judge has since been promoted to the Court of Appeals.

* * *

Despite being a "civilized" society, a lot of our menfolk still look down on women.

We are no better than some Muslim countries that consider women as chattel.

Sexual harassment is not only about giving in to baser instincts. It's also about power—raw power, like that wielded by a Neanderthal man, lugging a big stick, who dragged a woman by the hair to his cave.

* * *

Men who try to make passes at their female subordinates will stop in their tracks if the would-be victims tells them off in no uncertain terms how they feel about the advances.

The refusal could be a curt but courteous rebuff. "Sir, I'm not that type of woman."

If the man persists, the woman could tell him she is happily married or has a boyfriend.

If, despite all the courteous rebuffs, the man still continues with his sexual harassment, report him to the higher-ups. Or kick his balls to jolt him.

* * *

To the men who make it a habit to sexually molest their subordinates: how would you feel if your wives or sisters themselves were sexually harassed?

Ang dami-daming babae sa labas ng inyong opisina o bahay, kinakatalo pa n'yo ang inyong kasama?

* * *

Some bigwigs of a big TV network are guilty of sexually molesting their subordinates or talents.

This TV network even purports to protect the rights of children, but some of its executives are seeking sexual favors from very young stars in exchange for being given a "break" by the network.

How did this writer come to know this? One of the network's pretty secretaries came to me two years ago and spilled the beans on her bosses.

Professional courtesy prevented me from airing the complaint. Besides, a close relative who works for the network pleaded with me against publishing the complaint.

* * *

I didn't mention the name of Antonio S. Lopez, former editor in chief of Graphic magazine, out of courtesy to a former colleague at the Times Journal.

Lopez was the fellow I referred to in this space June 7 for testifying against his former boss, Graphic publisher Antonio Cabangon-Chua, at the latter's confirmation hearing at the Commission on Appointments (CA).

Despite Lopez's complaint against Cabangon-Chua's alleged non-payment of P5 million which he claimed the publisher owed him, Cabangon-Chua was given the nod by the CA as ambassador to Laos.

* * *

Which stupid publisher would give P5 million as separation pay to his editor who had only worked for him for 10 months?

Lopez was fired from the Graphic because he has an "attitude problem," according to his former boss.

"He shouted and cursed his staff. He humiliated one of his editors, an oldtimer in the profession, in front of subordinates. Lopez threw the poor guy's article into the waste basket in his presence," said Cabangon-Chua.

By the way, Tony Cabangon-Chua sent me and my family on an all-expenses paid trip to Hong Kong several months ago because my radio program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," is earning a lot for his station.

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E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

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800,000 new students get DepEd sleepless

By Dona Pazzibugan, Tarra Quismundo, Carlito Pablo, Jerome Aning

THE ENROLLMENT of a record 800,000 new students in public schools this year has caused Department of Education officials to worry.

This brought the total enrollment in elementary and secondary public schools to about 17.6 million—up from last year's 16.8 million.

Education officials attributed this huge increase to the "migration" of private school students to public schools, which offer free tuition and books.

Education Undersecretary Jose Luis Gascon said the migration phenomenon was observed a few years ago in public high schools.

But now, it is seen even in elementary schools—a sign of economic hardship, according to Gascon.

Education officials had projected only about 430,000 new elementary and high school students in public schools this year.

For private schools, it projected only 61,000 new enrollees, on top of the 2.21 million students last year.

Public schools are already suffering from acute shortage of classrooms, books and teachers, officials said.

"It's a cause for concern," Gascon said.

In the biggest high school in Caloocan City, that shortage stares you right in the eye.

Crowded and dilapidated rooms, too few books, and an insufficient teaching staff are all part of every public school's story.

Most students of ,Caloocan High School belong to families who are very poor, according to school principal Erlinda Fornoles.

But while the tuition there is free, education comes at a price.

Due to lack of classrooms and teachers, students in this high school have shifts.

Half of them go to school in the early shift, from 6:20 a.m. to 12:40 in the afternoon. The other half attend classes from 1 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. Still, more than 50 students share each classroom.

"If we followed the regular school schedule with the number of students we have, our students may have to go home at 9 p.m.," Fornoles said.

She said that they had to shorten some classes to squeeze in the subjects into the students' schedule.

800,000/A17

Rallies, traffic, floods

RALLIES, traffic and rainstorm yesterday attended the opening of schools in Metro Manila.

As expected, traffic flow was heavy in school areas with high student population density.

But Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said the situation was "manageable."

"Traffic is less than what we expected," he said in a press conference yesterday.

According to Western Police District head Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, they had expected the onslaught of commuters, and the resulting heavy traffic, especially on España, Intramuros and Taft Avenue—the city's primary school districts.

But students and other commuters had to wait five to ten minutes, sometimes more, at the Light Rail Transit-Line 1 stations to get a ride.

In the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area, thousands of students had to brave through heavy traffic and wade through floodwaters yesterday.

But aside from these problems, Northern Police District director chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. said the school opening went on smoothly.

Some schools in Navotas and Malabon have to postpone the classes because of floods.

Navotas police chief Supt. Billy Beltran said school authorities in Tanza, Daanghari and Dagat-dagatan have decided to move the opening of classes to June 23.

In Manila, about 500 militant students and teachers marked the first day of classes yesterday by holding a protest on Don Chino Roces Bridge near Malacañang to denounce what they called the "state's abandonment of education."

The protesters, who belong to Anakbayan, Anak ng Bayan and Alliance of Concerned Teachers, denounced the declining quality of education, and the new round of tuition hikes in 254 schools.

Also, teachers of the Pampan-

RALLIES/A17

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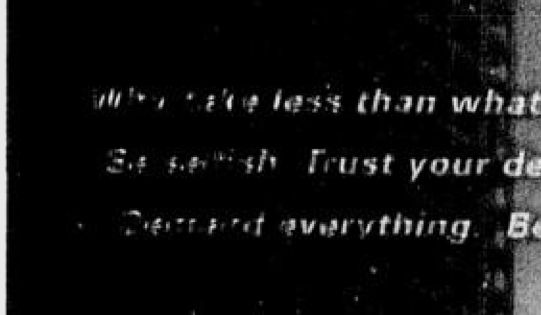

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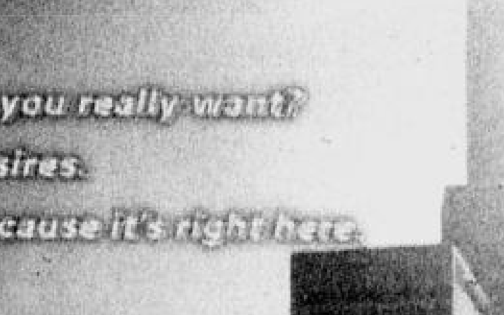

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Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 1 p.m. (r) and 6 p.m.; ESPN—Steve Davis is the featured cue artist as he takes on Fabio Petroni then teams up with him to battle the duo of Jim Rempe and Reed Pierce.

San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour; 9 p.m. (r); Star Sports—Take a look back at all the highlights of the Manila leg.

GOLF: US Open Highlight Show; 12 noon and 7 p.m.; ESPN—Catch all the finest moments of the second major golf event of the year.

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Sex case filed vs Barredo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commissioner Mike Barredo, the blind sports official championing the cause of physically handicapped athletes, has been accused of sexually harassing a female janitor cleaning his room at the Teachers' Camp last week in Baguio City.

The janitress, who was only identified as Isabel, filed her complaint at the Baguio City Police Office. She claimed that Barredo hugged and touched her while she was inside his room last June 8 at about 9:45 a.m.

Barredo was charged with violation of the Republic Act 7877 at the City Prosecutor's Office.

But the 47-year-old Barredo categorically denied the charges, adding he is ready to face his accuser to clear his name. He said he learned of the complaint only yesterday.

He admitted, however, that there are people tasked to assist him while he's staying in Teachers' Camp "because I can't do some things on my own."

Barredo was not in his office yesterday and he didn't return calls on his cellphone.

PSC chair Eric Buhain refused to comment on the case, saying he hasn't received a copy of the complaint yet.

According to the complaint, Isabel, 22, is a resident of Outlook Drive, Baguio City, and an employee of Building Consolidated Maintenance which is tasked to clean the cottages in Teachers' Camp, where Barredo was staying while conducting a seminar on the Sports of the Disabled.

It was the second time a PSC official was accused of sexual harassment.

Almost 10 years ago, former commissioner Jun Castro was also charged of making sexual advances on a national diver inside his office at the PSC administration building.

Barredo is one of four commissioners of the government agency on sports.

PSC: No to additional SEAG bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE EMPHATIC answer was no—even before the Philippine Olympic Committee could appeal for additional athletes to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

Saying it only wants to protect government money, the Philippine Sports Commission stood pat yesterday on its decision to support only the athletes who meet the POC-formulated criteria for the SEAG set this November.

BUHAIN: We have to protect state money.

"The PSC is very clear in its position from the very start that only the athletes who make the criteria will be funded by the government," said PSC chair Eric Buhain.

Some 400 athletes have already made it to the SEAG contingent after meeting the criteria of a gold medal finish in the last SEAG held in Malaysia and a silver in the Busan Asian Games last year.

But the POC screening committee, headed by POC vice president Steve Hontiveros, said last week he would appeal to the PSC for the inclusion of additional athletes in sports like gymnastics, diving and wushu. The appeal has yet to be made but it seems doomed.

"While we want maximum participation in the SEA Games, we need to have a parameter in choosing the athletes we will support, because we also have to protect government money," said Buhain.

The PSC has set aside P40 million alone for the air fare and hotel expenses of the athletes and officials during the competition scheduled Dec. 5-13.

Senate to probe PBA drug tests

By June Navarro

THE SENATE Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports will create an investigative body to determine the accuracy of the Philippine Basketball Association's drug testing program.

Sen. Robert Barbers said the probers would scrutinize the entire procedure used by the PBA and the Department of Health and come up with their findings within the week.

"I expect the group to come up with a report on the accuracy of the tests, the results and the equipment used in the program," Barbers told the INQUIRER.

He said the findings would be the basis for the Senate committee to either uphold the procedure of the PBA or recommend a drastic change in the program.

Although the Senate has no jurisdiction over the PBA, Barbers said PBA Commissioner Eala has given his word to follow any recommendation by the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports.

Nine players have been suspended indefinitely after testing positive for banned substances.

Andrada new Asian tennis chief

PHILIPPINE Tennis Association president Buddy Andrada has been elected president of the Asian Tennis Federation, beating long-time chief Eiichi Kawatei of Japan during its election held Sunday in Bangkok.

Andrada said the victory is also a big boost to Philippine tennis.

He won the election, 22-13, ending Kawatei's 20-year reign in the ATF and placed Andrada in the highest position held by a Filipino sports official so far.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Teske nips Rosales, 2 others in playoff /A20

Viva seeks title /A21

Spurs reign supreme again /A22

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Teske nips Rosales, 2 others in playoff

ROSALES agonizes over a missed putt. REUTERS

By Jong Arcano

IT WAS American Rachel Teske who seized the winning moment Jenny Rosales was looking forward to yesterday.

Teske rammed home an 18-foot putt for birdie on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff then watched as Rosales, Annika Sorenstam of Sweden and Canadian Lorie Kane blew their own birdie chances to capture the Giant Eagle Classic at the Squaw Creek Country Club in Vienna, Ohio.

Playing in the final twosome, Teske had earlier buried a 35-foot birdie putt on the last hole of regulation play to join the four-hole playoff at 204.

Teske, co-leader in the second round, closed out with a 69. Rosales and Sorenstam submitted identical 68s while Kane joined the playoff with a record 63.

Teske's clinching putt came after Rosales had bungled a very makeable winning putt from seven feet on the second extra hole.

"I had a chance," Rosales said. "I just blew it, but it's not the end of the world."

Still, Rosales savored the glory of having proven herself playing head-to-head against the best female player in the world and securing her best finish so far in four seasons in the LPGA Tour since placing third in The Office Depot during her rookie stint.

Rosales, endorsing Pagcor and the American Eye Center in the LPGA, went home richer by $69,945 (about P3.7 million) and jacked up her season's earnings to $209,943 (about P11 million).

It was her fourth Top 10 finish this year.

Everybody expected the slim Filipina to crumble under the severe pressure of playing alongside Sorenstam on the final day, but Rosales proved them wrong.

Unfazed by two three-putt bogey mistakes on the first two holes, Rosales got back to level par after hitting her first birdie from six feet on the sixth and then tapping-in for another birdie on the eighth.

The show was just about to start.

Undaunted by the huge gallery rooting for Annika, Jenny unleashed her back nine charge with a 10-footer for birdie on the 10th and continued the splurge with her fourth birdie from six feet on the 14th.

Jenny gets emotional lift from Sorenstam

DISTRAUGHT after coming so close to ending her search for a maiden victory, Jenny Rosales found unexpected emotional lift from the greatest female golfer in the planet.

Minutes after the four-way playoff for the Giant Eagle Classic was over, Jenny was wiping tears of frustration away and desperate for comforting words when Annika Sorenstam hugged her.

"Don't worry, I'm pretty sure you'll have more chances," Annika whispered to Jenny.

Along with Canadian Lorie Kane, they ended up losing to American Rachel Teske, who sent a wonderful 18-footer zigzagging into the hole on the third extra hole to clinch the win.

Rosales said she could have not lasted the three holes of the playoff if not for Annika–who has changed the golf landscape after playing in The Colonial leg of the PGA Tour three weeks ago.

"Annika was just so nice. My respect for her grew after this experience which I will really treasure," said Rosales.

As soon as Jenny put herself in the playoff with her closing pair of birdies, Annika waited for her to finish jumping up and down the green before congratulating her for a job well done. *Jong Arcano*

Furyk scores breakthrough

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Illinois—Jim Furyk rose to the challenge at the US Open, the toughest test in golf, with a gritty round of 2-over 72 to win his first major championship in a landslide.

Furyk shot an 8-under 272 total to claim a three-stroke victory over Australia's Stephen Leaney. The winner matched Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Lee Janzen for the lowest 72-hole score in the 103 years of the US Open.

Woods shot 12-under 272 three years ago at Pebble Beach, which played as a par 71, and remains the only player to finish a US Open in double digits under par.

Leading by three strokes going into the final round, Furyk said he woke up Sunday morning knowing he would win. And win Furyk did, playing the same solid golf that had helped get to 10 under through three rounds. Nothing distracted him, not even a woman who bared her breasts on the 11th hole.

As he got ready to walk to the 18th green, the significance of his accomplishment and all the work he'd put in started to sink in while an ovation built.

"I lost it at the point emotionally," he said. "I knew I could pretty much do anything on that green and still the tournament. I just wanted to get it over with and win."

He ended with a bogey but it didn't matter. He was too far ahead to be caught. And the label as one of the best players to never win a major had disappeared.

"I was never consumed by it," he said. "I said Saturday night that if I played my entire career and never won a major championship, I could live with that. And I meant it."

Leaney, three shots back after three rounds, fell five strokes behind at the turn and couldn't catch up. He closed with a 72, but his runner-up finish assures him a PGA Tour card for next year.

The only other players under par Sunday when a warm day finally firmed up the greens were Masters champion Mike Weir (71) and Kenny Perry (67).

Challengers stepped aside quickly.

Vijay Singh of Fiji birdied the second hole, but lost hope with a drive into the cabbage on the next, hole that led to a double bogey.

Singh, who tied the major championship record with a 63 in the second round, made six straight bogeys at one point and finished with a 78.

South Africa's Nick Price opened with three straight bogeys and was never a factor. *AP*

Streaker offers roses to champ

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Illinois—A topless woman attempted to hand Jim Furyk a pair of roses near the 11th green, disrupting the final round of the US Open briefly before being arrested by authorities.

FURYK hoists the championship trophy on the 18th green at Olympia Fields Country Club. REUTERS

FINAL ROUND SCORES

272 Jim Furyk 67 66 67 72 275 Stephen Leaney (Australia) 67 68 68 72 **279** Kenny Perry 72 71 69 67, Mike Weir (Canada) 73 67 68 71 **280** Justin Rose (Britain) 70 71 70 69, Fredrik Jacobson (Sweden) 69 67 73 71, David Toms 72 67 70 71, Ernie Els (South Africa) 69 70 69 72, Nick Price (Zimbabwe) 71 65 69 75 **281** Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 69 72 72 68, Jonathan Kaye 70 70 72 69, Cliff Kresge 69 70 72 70, Scott Verplank 76 67 68 70, Billy Mayfair 69 71 67 74 **282** Hidemichi Tanaka (Japan) 69 71 71 71, Tom Byrum 69 69 71 73, Tim Petrovic 69 70 70 73, Jonathan Byrd 69 66 71 76, Eduardo Romero (Argentina) 70 66 70 76 **283** Peter Lonard (Australia) 72 69 74 68, Tiger Woods 70 66 75 72. *Reuters*

Furyk's right

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

"WITHOUT him, I'll not be where I am now."

That's from Jim Furyk. He was referring to his father.

Jim said that even before he could win the 103rd US Open yesterday. His father taught him how to play golf.

Jim said that even before his fellow Americans could celebrate yesterday's Father's Day in the United States. (We are ahead by one day over the US, so we had our Father's Day on Sunday, June 15.)

When I saw Jim say that on TV, I thought I was looking at a Filipino. There's no race more clannish than the Filipino.

In America, it is customary for parents to let go of their children when they reach the age of 18.

In the Philippines, it is customary for parents to live with their children the rest of their lives.

In America, it is customary for children turning 18 to leave their parents.

In the Philippines, it is customary for children to live with their parents the rest of their lives.

Tradition we call it. American tradition. Filipino tradition. Each has its own advantages, disadvantages.

American parents start to rediscover their lives after releasing their children turning 18. Having their 18-year-old children stay with them is but a nuisance, if not an invasion of privacy.

Filipino parents start to discover the joy of grandparenthood after seeing their children, whether 18 or not, raise their own families right at home. Having their children, whether 18 or not, stay with them is heaven, if not an invitation to familial bliss.

But how about recognizing your father's role as the absolute tool for your growth, let alone your coming to this world?

That should be a universal feeling. Beyond race. Tradition.

That's what Jim Furyk was trying to tell us yesterday. As a rule, we are what we become because of our fathers.

But there are others who think otherwise. They say fathers do not always necessarily become the architects of their children's future.

Like this girl so close to me I consider her like my own child. A while back, she said she considered her very-much alive father dead. Reason: Her father boozed a lot. Jobless.

"Please, don't ever say that again," I said.

She was crying. "But he is a pain in the ass. He does nothing but drink. The first thing he does in the morning is go to the nearby store and drink gin. The last thing he does before he goes to bed is drink gin."

She has three brothers and three sisters.

"My mother comes home dog tired every day, from Monday to Saturday, trying her best to make both ends meet," she said. "My father comes home punch drunk, from Monday to Sunday, trying his best not to miss a step while climbing the stairs."

"A drunk or a punk, whatever, he is still your father," I told her. "Without him, you wouldn't be around enjoying the company of your mother, sisters and brothers. Your dog, Rod, too."

She lightened up. "Yes, if not for Rod."

"OK, go home now and be nice to your Dad," I said. "If not for your Dad, there would be no Rod in your life."

Rod was given to the girl by her father's gin mate.

When I saw the girl again a little later, she was now smiling.

"I'm so happy to see you so happy now," I told her. "How is your dog, Rod? Still as cuddly and friendly to your family but fierce as a lion to anyone trying to intrude into your home?"

"Fine, fine," she said.

She sadly narrated a story about Rod having bitten someone. Turned out Rod mistook the guy as trying to wrestle down the girl's father when in fact, the guy was merely helping the girl's father home.

"They both fell as the guy was helping father go up the stairs," said the girl. "They were both drunk."

The guy was lucky. Rod was negative for rabies.

Said the girl: "Think about what would have happened if Rod had rabies? We don't even have the money to spend for a cough syrup, what more for a rabies' shot? We couldn't even buy a decent meal with mother's salary."

Her father bought gin to appease the poor guy. That was hard-earned money going "down the hatch" but under the circumstances, doing that was the wisest thing to do.

For one, the gin also eased the pain inflicted on the guy by Rod's sharp as shark "pangil" teeth. Next morning, the guy thought his wife bit him in the heat of a lovers' second honeymoon.

For another, mother's act of buying gin gave her daughter positive vibrations. Right then and there, the girl's attitude towards her father changed from hatred to joy; she finally realized that the power of true love emanates from her father.

So Jim Furyk was right. If not for our fathers, we would not be where we are today.

I am where I am today because my father taught me how not to write. If I can write, it's not for me to say. Anybody buying me beer?

I need a drink.

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Dodong Andam	0	1
Lee Vann Corteza	0	1
Marlon Manalo	0	1

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Taulava, Duremdes week's best

ONE was dominant inside, the other was unstoppable outside. It was difficult to tell which player deserved the Player of the Week award more.

The easy way out—make them co-winners.

TAULAVA

DUREMDES

Banking on performances that popped the eyes of even grizzled observers who thought they saw it all, Sta. Lucia's Kenneth Duremdes, the prolific scorer, and Talk N' Text's Asi Taulava, the imposing presence, ended up sharing the Samsung PBA All-Filipino Cup player of the week award for the stretch of June 10 to 16.

Taulava was simply overpowering against Ginebra, pumping in 31 points, grabbing 22 rebounds, dishing off six feeds and chipping in two steals in a 43-minute performance that left the Kings' frontline huffing.

"Asi was really at his best. Because of the system we employ, there was hardly any double team or it came late that's why he got away with a lot of one-on-one moves underneath the basket," said Talk N' Text coach Joel Banal after dealing the Kings a 99-86 lacing that sent the Kings off the quarterfinals without a win.

"He really played a great game and there was no doubt that he was the most dominant player on the floor," said Banal.

Taulava's feat was equaled only by Duremdes' shooting touch from the field in an earlier game.

After scoring a career-high 42 points, Duremdes came back against San Miguel itching for an encore.

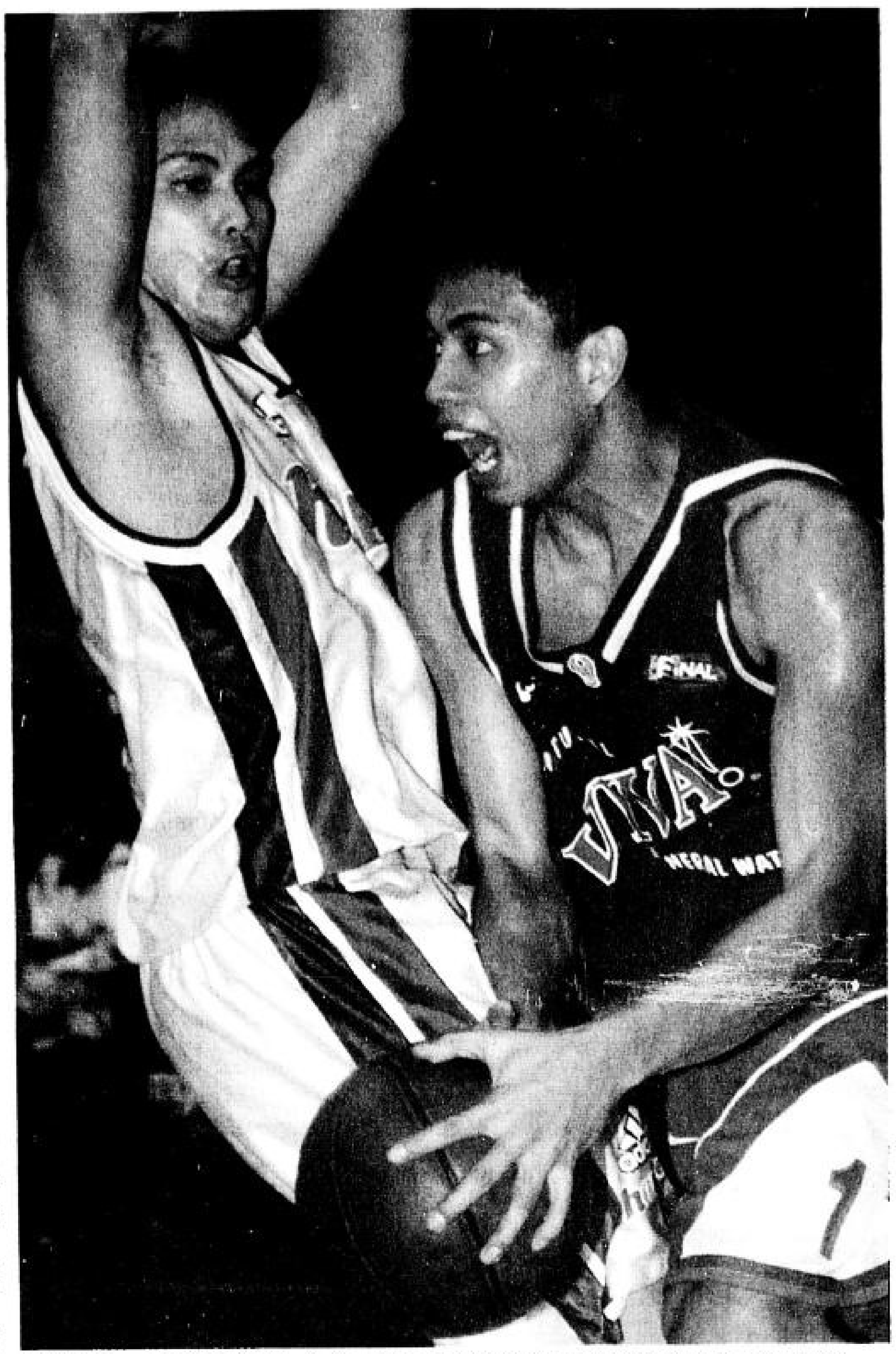
And boy, did he provide one. The Sta. Lucia swingman shot 10 triples, the most by a local since Allan Caidic had 17 in 1991, and finished with 40 points to lead the Realtors past the Beermen, 83-81.

"He gave us a big lift offensively. His outside shots made San Miguel pay for double-teaming down low," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua.

Duremdes, unfortunately, did not finish the game as he hurt his calf muscle under two minutes left to play. He, however, became the first player to score 40 points in back-to-back games since Nelson Asaytono did so in a San Miguel uniform in 1998.

Semis moved

THE PBA Commissioner's Office has moved the start of the Samsung PBA All-Filipino Cup semifinal round from Wednesday (June 18) to Friday (June 20) due to the rush caused by the opening of classes.


VIVA'S Cesar Catli (right) attacks the defense put up by Hapee's Peter June Simon in Game Three of the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup best-of-five title series. Viva won, 58-56. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Graham tipped to become 2003 NCAA commissioner

By Dennis U. Eroa

BARRING any hindrances, Graham Lim, longtime secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, will become commissioner of the NCAA which will open its 79th season on June 28 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Francis Gusi Jr., athletic moderator of this year's host San Sebastian College (SSC) and NCAA chair, said the new commissioner will be known after today's meeting of the all-powerful management committee composed of representatives from the eight competing schools.

Gusi admitted that SSC had nominated Lim for the post of commissioner.

"I believe that Mr. Lim has the time and expertise to hold the post. I see no conflict of interest here because we're talking about basketball," Gusi said.

The INQUIRER learned that College of St. Benilde has nominated former MBA commissioner and now Champions League chief Ramon Fernandez to the post.

Aside from its traditional pomp and pageantry, the NCAA will open its season with a heavy quadruple bill starting with the 2 p.m. encounter between CSB and University of Perpetual Help-Rizal.

This year's theme is: "NCAA at 79: A family through time."

Titleholder San Sebastian College meets Jose Rizal University at 4 p.m., followed by the San Beda-Phil. Christian University game at 6 p.m.

Mapua and Letran clash in the nightcap at 8.

Viva seeks title

GAME TODAY (*Pasig Sports Center*)
3 p.m.—Viva Mineral Water vs Hapee Toothpaste
Head-to-head (best-of-five) Viva leads series, 2-1.
Game One: Viva 64 Hapee 57
Game Two: Hapee 52 Viva 43
Game Three: Viva 58 Hapee 56

By Dennis U. Eroa

FUNNY how things quickly change.

Take the ongoing Viva-Hapee title series for the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Hardly given a chance at the start of the best-of-five championship playoffs, Viva is now on the threshold of becoming only the second rookie team since Stag in 1995 to win a PBL title.

The San Miguel Corporation-owned franchise seeks a fairy tale ending to its campaign when it clashes with Hapee in Game Four at 3 p.m. today.

"This is a do-or-die game for us," said Viva mentor Koy Banal, who had a forgettable stint as Hapee coach last year. He said his charges are ready for the "hardest win of their lives."

"We need to come strong in Game Four. God will be the master tinsmith of this crowning story," said Banal, a Born-Again Christian.

The youth-laden Water Force have shown true grit against the battle-tested Sparklers, who have beaten their rivals four times going into the title series.

Viva won Game One in Lucena City, 64-57, lost its momentum in a a 52-43 loss in Game Two but bounced back with a crunching 58-56 win in the pivotal Game Three last Saturday.

Under Banal's guidance, the Water Force have emerged as a solid fighting unit which forces turnovers using a tireless press.

Dennis Miranda, Warren Ybañez, Jason Misolas, Mark Isip, Cesar Catli, Rhagnee Sinco, Gerard Jones and Joel Co are again expected to lead Viva's attack.

Hapee coach Junel Baculi vowed to spoil Viva's victory party, but admitted the Sparklers need to work hard in order to force a decider on Thursday.

MayniLA stops M. Lhuillier, grabs solo top spot in NBL

MAYNILA, starring Ralph Emerson Rivera, held M. Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala scoreless in the last 3 minutes and 30 seconds en route to a 68-61 victory Sunday and the solo lead in the National Basketball League (NBL) national championship at the CEU Centrodome in Malolos City.

The 6-foot Rivera, formerly of the LBC Batangas Blades, scored seven of his game-high 16 points in that span to power MayniLA to its fourth straight win in as many outings.

Jonathan Serrano, fully recovered from an injury, accounted for a triple to complete MayniLA's closing 10-point outburst that sent M. Lhuillier crashing to its first defeat in five games.

MayniLA controlled majority of the game, but M. Lhuillier wrested control with a 12-2 run in the final quarter, 61-58.

It turned out to be the Cebuano's last taste of glory, however, as Rivera hit a triple to tie the game and trigger MayniLA's fiery wind-up.

MayniLA's Francis Sanz added 11 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to earn MVP honors. Aldrin Ocañada led M. Lhuillier with 13 points while Woodraw Enriquez and Arnold Rodriguez made 12 points each.

Compak Shineway-Ozamiz spoiled the debut of Ricky Magallanes as coach of Spring Cooking Oil-Bulacan with an 85-77 thrashing.

Magallanes was named Spring's interim head coach in light of the resignation of head coach Bobby Parks.

Ozamiz trailed after three quarters, 51-53, but went full throttle in the final quarter to improve its record to 3-2. Spring Oil suffered its fifth straight loss.

Melfred Sampilo copped his third game MVP award with 23 points for Ozamiz. Rolly Menor led Spring with 18 points while Tyrone Bautista added 15 points.

NBL action continues at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center in San Fernando, Pampanga today with Spring battling M. Lhuillier at 3 p.m. and Ozamiz tackling Pampanga Bulls at 5 p.m.

The NBL is seen over IBC-13 through the facilities of Silverstar. *Roy Luarca*

Grudge caging begins today

Games Today (*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Las Piñas vs. UPHR
4 p.m.—UST vs. JRU

THE GRUDGE Games of Champions League 2003 kick off today with Las Piñas College tackling University of Perpetual Help-Rizal at 2 p.m. and University of Sto. Tomas battling Jose Rizal University at 4 p.m. at the Makati Coliseum

Twenty other schools, including UAAP champion Ateneo and NCAA title-holder San Sebastian College, are seeing action in the six-day event leading up to the Petron-sponsored Round of 32 in November.

"Each team will play just one game," said Commissioner Ramon Fernandez. "Based on their performance in that particular match, they could be invited to the finals should they fail to qualify within their respective mother leagues."

The top four teams in the UAAP, NCAA and Cesafi (Cebu), plus the champions of NCRAA, NAASCCU, UCAA, Southern NCAA, BEAL-Baguio, UCAAP-Dagupan, NOPCEA-Bacolod, ISAA-Iloilo, PRISAA-Davao and International School-Dumaguete are competing.

Nine teams from the Grudge Games are slated to join the 23 schools earlier seeded, completing the 32-team cast which will battle for the bragging rights to be hailed No. 1 collegiate team in the land.

University of the East captured the inaugural Champions League crown by beating Far Eastern University in the final last year.

"Aside from providing us a gauge, the Grudge Games will also serve as tune-up matches for the teams," Fernandez said.

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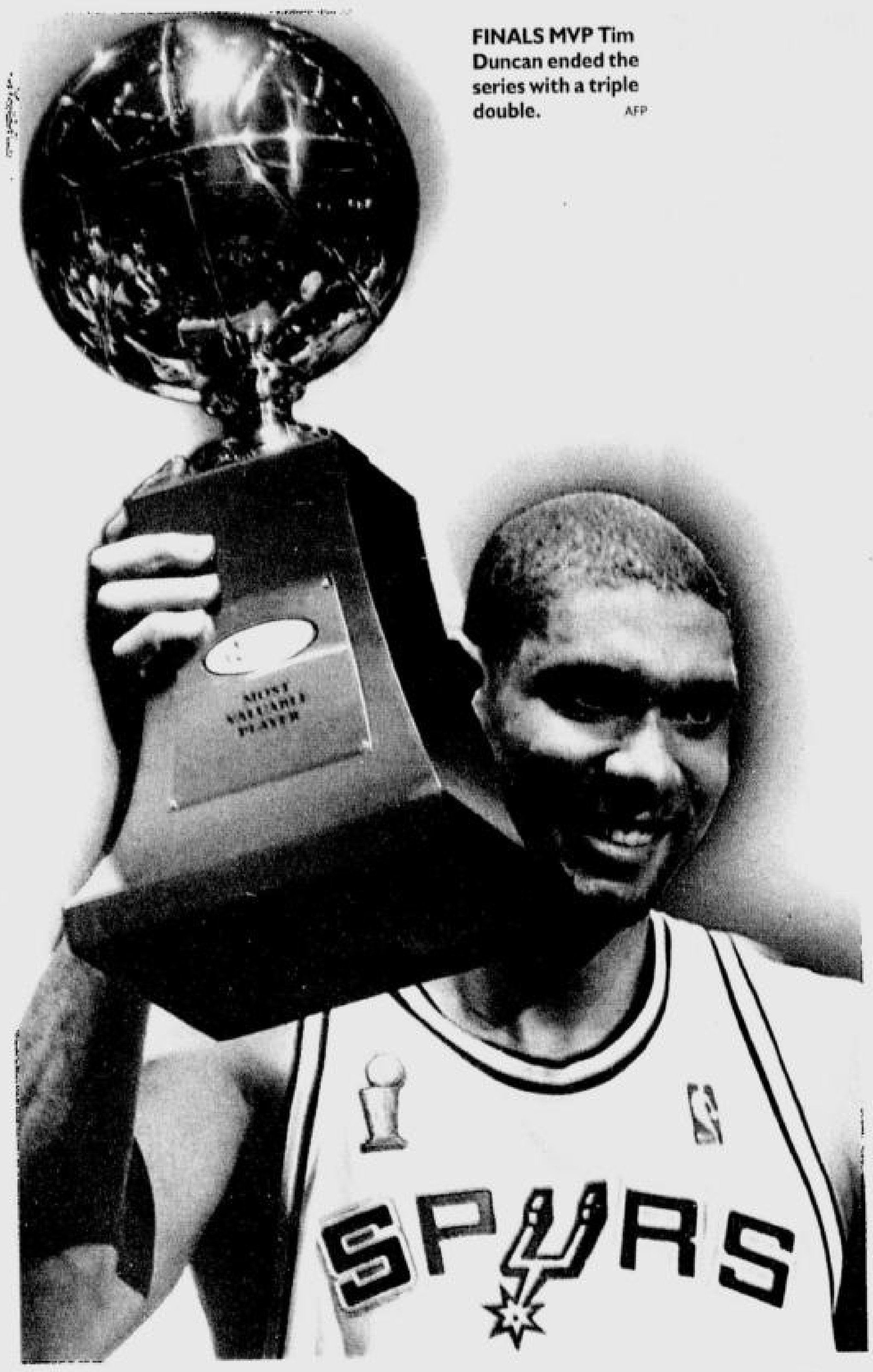


FINALS MVP Tim Duncan ended the series with a triple double. AFP

Spurs reign supreme again

SAN ANTONIO—The San Antonio Spurs won the NBA championship Sunday behind a devastating all-around effort from Tim Duncan, using a run of 19 unanswered points in the fourth quarter to defeat the New Jersey Nets 88-77 and take the series 4-2.

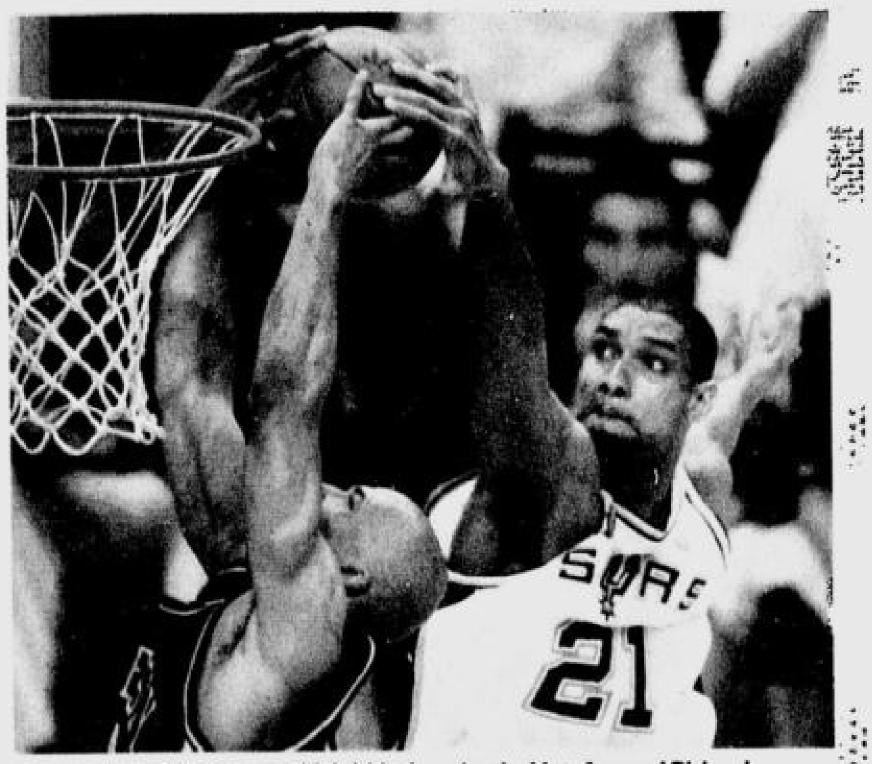
Duncan finished with 21 points, 20 rebounds, 10 assists and eight blocks for a triple-double. San Antonio won the title for the second time in franchise history, sending David Robinson into retirement with the ultimate present.

Robinson jumped and spun around as he punched his fist in the air and then hugged several teammates after being replaced with 35.6 seconds left.

The fourth quarter was stunning for its turn of events, with the Spurs–after trailing for almost the entire game–using the 19-0 run to take the life out of the stunned Nets.

"I thought this was the most poise we showed all season long–having the pitfalls we had in the playoffs then putting the game together like we did today," said Duncan, who added the finals MVP award to the one he earned for the season.

It was the fifth straight NBA title for a Western Conference team. The Nets showed none of the characteristics of a championship team as the game got away from them quickly.



SPURS center Tim Duncan (right) blocks a shot by Nets forward Richard Jefferson before the stunning 19-point San Antonio run in the final quarter. REUTERS

Coach Byron Scott left several reserves in during San Antonio's big run, letting them play alongside Kenyon Martin as he struggled through one of the worst games of his career, shooting 3-for-23.

San Antonio outscored New Jersey 31-14 in the fourth quarter, with Duncan getting six rebounds, three assists and three blocks. San Antonio tied the finals record with 13 blocks in the game, and Duncan's 32 blocks in the series broke Patrick Ewing's championship record.

Robinson completed his 14th season with a strong performance, grabbing 17 rebounds, scoring 13 points and blocking two shots. *AP*

'The Admiral' sails off a winner

SAN ANTONIO—Spurs veteran David Robinson was standing along the paint, waiting for a free throw, when it finally happened. His career was over.

Kevin Willis checked in and replaced Robinson with 35.6 seconds left in the final game of his 14th season. What could've been a sentimental walk to the sideline was anything but. It was the hug-filled journey of a two-time NBA champion.

Robinson went out a winner–and, best of all, was a big reason why his team came out on top in his final game.

Robinson had 13 points and 17 rebounds to help carry the San Antonio Spurs past the New Jersey Nets 88-77 on Sunday night in Game 6 of the NBA Finals.

He had 11 points in the first three quarters when the Spurs were struggling, then grabbed seven rebounds during a stunning fourth-quarter rally.

"My last game, streamers flying, world champions. How can you write a better script than this?" Robinson said. "It's unbelievable. I'm going to end my career on the highest of highs."

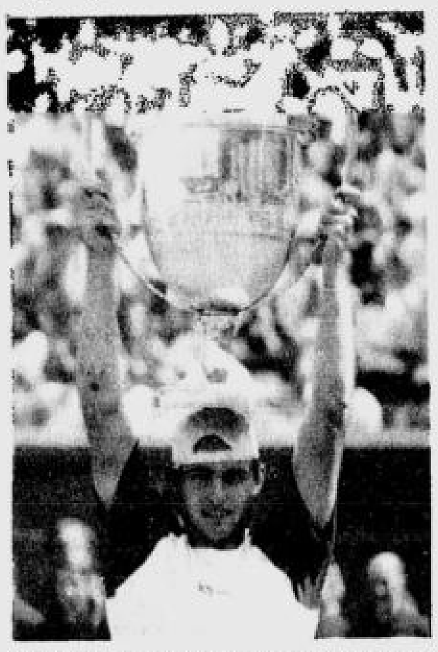
When the buzzer sounded, Robinson shared a long embrace with coach Gregg Popovich as confetti fell and fireworks sparkled. A fan in the upper deck released a banner that read, "Dear David: # 50 Bon Voyage" as the Admiral crossed the court and picked up one of his sons, with his own parents not far away.

As Robinson held aloft the championship trophy next to Tim Duncan, who was holding up his MVP prize, mimicking a signature image from their first title in 1999. This portrait of the big men will again be an enduring image in a city that adores both players and the team, their only major pro sports franchise.

"Dave's been an incredible part of this team for a lot of years," Duncan said. "The last couple of seconds, I thought, 'I'm not going to play with this guy again. I'm going to have to play on this court without him.' It's going to be weird. I don't know what to expect."

Robinson was 6-of-8 from the field and seemed to be around every loose ball after re-entering the game with 7:08 left in the fourth quarter. *AP*

TEAMMATES pour it on Robinson. AP



RODDICK holds aloft the Stella Artois Cup after beating Grosjean, 6-3, 6-3. AP

Roddick scores a first on grass

LONDON—Andy Roddick was in confident mood ahead of Wimbledon after winning the ATP Queen's Club grasscourt event here Sunday.

"If I could take this kind of form into Wimbledon I'd be happy," said the 20-year-old American after beating France's Sebastien Grosjean 6-3, 6-3, in just 59 minutes.

This victory gave Roddick his seventh tour title but his first on grass. Although seeded three, Roddick, who beat compatriot Andre Agassi in the semi-finals, said he was surprised by his Queen's triumph.

"It's weird, your titles come along when you least expect them. I didn't really know where I was, there were a lot of changes going on," said Roddick who has recently joined up with fellow American Brad Gilbert, the man who used to coach Agassi. *AFP*

Legends put their money on Agassi

LONDON—Wimbledon legends Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker believe that American veteran Andre Agassi can still be a contender at the All England Club next week. Agassi, now 33, reached the semi-finals of the recent Queen's Club grasscourt event and is among the favorites for Wimbledon which gets underway in seven days' time.

"To me it's outstanding," said Edberg. "Agassi is playing great at 33." *AFP*

Tour de France beckons for Lance

GRENOBLE, France—American Lance Armstrong shrugged off a painful fall to win his Tour de France warm-up, the Dauphine Libere, here on Sunday.

The US Postal team's skipper, who is aiming for a fifth straight Tour de France victory, crashed on Friday and reported he was still feeling the effects.

"My body's not the same on the bike–but luckily I've got two weeks to recover with my family," said the Texan who was thankful he escaped with nothing more serious than a couple of stitches to his right elbow.

"It could have been worse. I'm on a course of antibiotics to prevent any infection setting in.

"The crucial thing is that in this situation I was able to show to my teammates that their skipper was still there.

"I didn't make a show or cinema at the side of the road–I just got on a new bike and assumed my responsibilities." Armstrong's sporting director, Johan Bruyneel, reflected: "Lance didn't panic after Friday's crash. He knew how to remain vigilant," he said.

The 31-year-old Armstrong said his US Postal team had never been in such good form before a Tour. *AFP*

ARMSTRONG shown before the spill in the final stage. AFP

Schumi makes winning tough races look easy

MONTREAL—Winning races and championships isn't very easy. Michael Schumacher just makes it look that way.

Schumacher, seeking his record sixth Formula One title, won for the fourth time this season and passed Kimi Raikkonen for the lead in the driver standings by winning the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday.

"This was a tough and tricky race, so the outcome is good," Schumacher said. "And it's always important to go into the lead and try to get as many points as you can."

"The season is going to be a long one and we knew that from the beginning and we've sort of had confirmation by now that it will be a tough fight to the end."

It's been tough on Schumacher all season because of rules changes the FIA made in an attempt to even out competition a year after Schumacher and teammate Rubens Barrichello teamed to win 15 of 17 races in a Ferrari domination.

WORLD champion Michael Schumacher (left) takes the victory lap around the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal with brother Ralf. AFP

The Ferrari's struggled at the start of the season and the 23-year-old Raikkonen took over the lead in the driver standings and brought a four-point advantage over Schumacher into the race.

But Schumacher has been steadily chipping away, even though the gap has clearly been closed by the competition–proven Sunday when the top four finished nose to tail, only 4.3 seconds apart–a rarity in F1.

"That's the ideal result, obviously," Schumacher said. "The nature of sport is that it is unpredictable and that is what we have seen in all the years of many, many sports and that is the way with Formula One." *AP*

Cuban boxing guru to conduct training and seminar in Manila

WORLD-RENOWNED Cuban boxing trainer Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron will be arriving in Manila on Friday to conduct a week-long seminar on coaching and training.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, arranged Sagarra's visit under the International Olympic Committee's solidarity courses.

Sagarra, founder of the Cuban School of Boxing and president of the Cuban National Technical Committee, will share his coaching expertise which has helped produce world amateur boxing champions in Teofilo Stevenson, Felix Savon, Roberto Balado, Joel Casamayor, Angel Espinosa and Maikro Romero. For inquiries, call the Abap at tels. 522-3437 or 838-8977.

Coseteng prevails

SUBIC—Three-time champion Jody Coseteng of Red Horse-San Miguel Beer-Caltex celebrated Father's Day with another smashing back-to-back triumphs in the ninth and 10th rounds of the 2003 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at theSubic International Raceway here Sunday. Riding in his 1998 Toyota Corolla, Coseteng unleashed a fiery run in the early part of the race and kept his pursuers at bay to dominate both the morning and afternoon races of the Blaze-sponsored super saloon category. The back-to-back wins enabled Coseteng to widen his lead over his closest rival Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA going into the final four rounds.

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY	1 SANIB	ArtFilm 1 WHO IS CLETIS TOUT? 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY 12:45, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	THX 1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA	2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA	2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 DARKNESS FALLS 12:30, 2:30	2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Onstage REX RELOADED July 1 - 8:00 pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 FRIDA 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KO
4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA	4 THE MATRIX RELOADED	NANETTE I. W/ GARY V. July 3, 9pm	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY 12:55, 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15, 11:20	4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
	5 IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30	5 SANIB
	6 WHO IS CLETIS TOUT?			
	7 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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4 GOLD (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 GOLD (SDDS) DAKNESS FALLS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 ALAB NG LAHI
9 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
10 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

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1
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 (DTS)
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPE
6 (DTS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
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(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

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2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 SANIB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

METROPOLIS star

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1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 SANIB
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK

M star

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1 ALAB NG LAHI
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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(Makati City) TEL. 8934225, 8922503

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

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2 PAKNERS

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tel 930.9515

1
2
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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1 ALAB NG LAHI
2
3 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 (DTS) SANIB
8 (SDDS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9 (DOLBY) OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 (SDDS) SANIB
5 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 (DTS) SANIB
8 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
9 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
2 (SDDS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DTS) SANIB
4 (DOLBY) ALAB NG LAHI
5 OPERATION BALIKATAN

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN
5 (SDDS) ALAB NG LAHI

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 SANIB

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 SANIB
4 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

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tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) OPERATION BALIKATAN
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA
3 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 SANIB

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029

1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 PANGARAP KONG IIBIGIN KA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

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1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SANIB
4 (SDDS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 SANIB
7 OPERATION BALIKATAN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

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1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 SANIB
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 (DOLBY) SANIB
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3 (DTS) SANIB
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 (DOLBY) THE MATRIX RELOADED
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 (DOLBY) BRUCE ALMIGHTY
4 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Magic Star Cinema

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1 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 (DTS) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

Lianas MovieCity

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1 (DOLBY) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 (DTS) ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 OPERATION BALIKATAN
5 SANIB

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK

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1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 ANG HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SANIB
2 TANGING INA
3 (DTS) PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)
2

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
3

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SANIB
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 ANG TANGING INA
4 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
4 SANIB

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KITA
2 SANIB
3 (DOLBY) BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG TANGING INA

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AGENT CODY BANKS

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NOW SHOWING

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2 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 SANIB
6 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
7 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 SANIB
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 BERTUD NG PUTIK
6 OPERATION BALIKATAN
7 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8 DARKNESS FALLS
9 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
10 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
2 OPERATION BALIKATAN
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 SANIB
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
11 BERTUD NG PUTIK
12 AGENT CODY BANKS

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 SANIB
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 OPERATION BALIKATAN
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ALAB NG LAHI
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 OPERATION BALIKATAN
9 SANIB
10 ALAB NG LAHI
11 BERTUD NG PUTIK
12 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 • 6328401

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 DARKNESS FALLS
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
7 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
8 ALAB NG LAHI
9 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
10 SANIB
11 OPERATION BALIKATAN
12 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 SANIB
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 SANIB
7 OPERATION BALIKATAN
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SOUTHMALL

8006888

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 SANIB
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK
7 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
9 DARKNESS FALLS
10 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 SANIB
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
8 DARKNESS FALLS

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 CLOSED
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
5 AGENT CODY BANKS
6 ANG TANGING INA
7 CLOSED
8 SANIB

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 ANG TANGING INA
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 SANIB
5 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
6 BERTUD NG PUTIK

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 SANIB
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 SANIB
2 BERTUD NG PUTIK
3 ALAB NG LAHI
4 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
3 HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
4 SANIB

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1 SO CLOSE
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
4 WHAT A GIRL WANTS

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 PANGARAP KO AY IBIGIN KA
11:00 MF/11:20/1:40/4:00/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/
10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END

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THX BRUCE ALMIGHTY
12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,
9:30LMF,11:10 END
2 HULING BIRHEN
3 MATRIX
4 THE GURO
5 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6 DARKNESS FALLS
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK
9 ALAB NG HAHI
10 BALIKATAN

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2 SANIB
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 HULING BIRHEN
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 BALIKATAN
7 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Metro East - Marcos hway

682- 8193 / 8280

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
3 BALIKATAN
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 DARKNESS FALLS
6 HULING BIRHEN
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Novaliches

935- 3229 - 30

1 DARKNESS FALLS
2 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
3 BALIKATAN
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 HULING BIRHEN
6 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
7 SANIB
8 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Malabon Citisquare

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1 BALIKATAN
2 ALAB NG LAHI
3 HULING BIRHEN
4 BERTUD NG PUTIK

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.

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(045)961-5270

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 HULING BIRHEN
3 BALIKATAN
4 SANIB
5 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6 ALAB NG LAHI

Imus

471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 SANIB
2 HULING BIRHEN
3 BERTUD NG PUTIK
4 BALIKATAN
5 ALAB NG LAHI
6 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA

Sta. Rosa Laguna

(049)837-0907

1 BERTUD NG PUTIK
2 SANIB
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
4 ALAB NG LAHI
5 HULING BIRHEN

Bacolod

441- 0453 / 0459

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 ANG TANGING INA
3 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
4 DARKNESS FALLS
5 WHAT A GIRL WANT
6 DAYO

Iloilo

336- 8077 - 78

1 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
2 AGENT CODY BANKS
3 DARKNESS FALLS
4 ANG TANGING INA
5 PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
6 SANIB

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

The blind leading the dumb

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

> If you think blind items on TV are a no-no, let the TV channels know what you think

"BLIND items" started out in print, with some movie columns giving juicy show biz rumors a faceless, "generic" treatment. Columnists did this either because they weren't sure of their facts, or were afraid of being charged with libel.

Since the show biz luminaries involved in the scandals weren't named, the write-ups could be made even more exaggerated and sleazier than usual, and their shock value rose to earthquake magnitude.

The good thing was, if you didn't care to expose yourself to such sordid and smarmy stuff, you could just skip those printed blind items and move on to more verifiable reports.

Trouble is, the blind items have now moved over to television programs, so they've become more aurally sordid, and more difficult to ignore.

When blind-item reporters describe erring celebrities and the scandalous things they do, their verbal descriptions are much more malicious than print reportage of the same event.

And they can also become visually prurient, as the on-camera reporter compounds the double talk with facial expressions that are virtually x-rated in their visual sleaze.

The wonder is that some "educated" program hosts agree to be part of this unsavory display, which sets a very bad example for young viewers.

Blind items on TV are reprehensible because they encourage young viewers to enjoy gossip and casting aspersions against other people. Blind items are worse than gossip, because they don't even have the guts to name names, and thus breezily avoid the consequences of malicious reportage.

At our home, we protect ourselves from such cowardly sleaze by shifting to other channels. But this is sometimes not easy to do, because a number of morning programs have their own "blind items" portions -- so, when you shift from one to the other, you get the same "blind" sleaze.

When this happens, we feel like we're caught between a rock and a hard place, and wonder why the MTRCB and the KBP appear to be so bliss fully and cluelessly oblivious to these smarmy excesses on the TV screen.

It must be because most viewers don't complain. If you think that blind items on TV are a no-no, make a big noise and let the TV channels know what you think. After all, they're supposed to come up with programming initiatives to please you, not the verbal and visual voyeurs out there.

AXN premieres

ON June 23 at 7 p.m., the popular animé show, "Ranma 1/2," premieres on AXN, the Action Channel. The series is based on Rumiko Takahashi's Manga in the Japanese weekly, Shonen Sunday.

Essentially a comedy of errors, the animé features a martial artist, Ranma Saotome, whose unfortunate curse is to turn female upon contact with water. This leads to many complications in his love life.

"Ranma 1/2" has spawned three films, 11 OAVs, video games for Sony Playstation, dozens of music albums, and innumerable dedicated fan sites on the web.

Other AXN premieres this month are of movies like "Extreme Justice" with Lou Diamond Philips (10 p.m., June 19) and "Night of the Running Man" (10 p.m., June 26), in which a cab driver receives a sudden windfall that turns into a nightmare.

Bible heroes on TV

EVERY Saturday at 9 a.m. RPN-9, "The Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible" features exciting stories that encourage young viewers to regard biblical characters as role models.

Witness how a boastful giant underestimates the courage of a boy in "David and Goliath." See how the disobedient Jonah is swallowed by a whale. Watch as old Moses leads his people in crossing the Red Sea. See how Daniel remains untouched despite being surrounded by fierce lions.

In "The Miracles of Jesus," Christ performs his miracles, like changing water into wire, casting out demons, walking on water, healing many people, and raising the dead to life.

Other stories: the Nativity, Christ's Passion, Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors, The Garden of Eden, The Apostles, Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, and Sodom and Gomorrah.

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GP
CINEMA 2
HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
11:40, 1:55,4:10, 6:25, 8:40
R18
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
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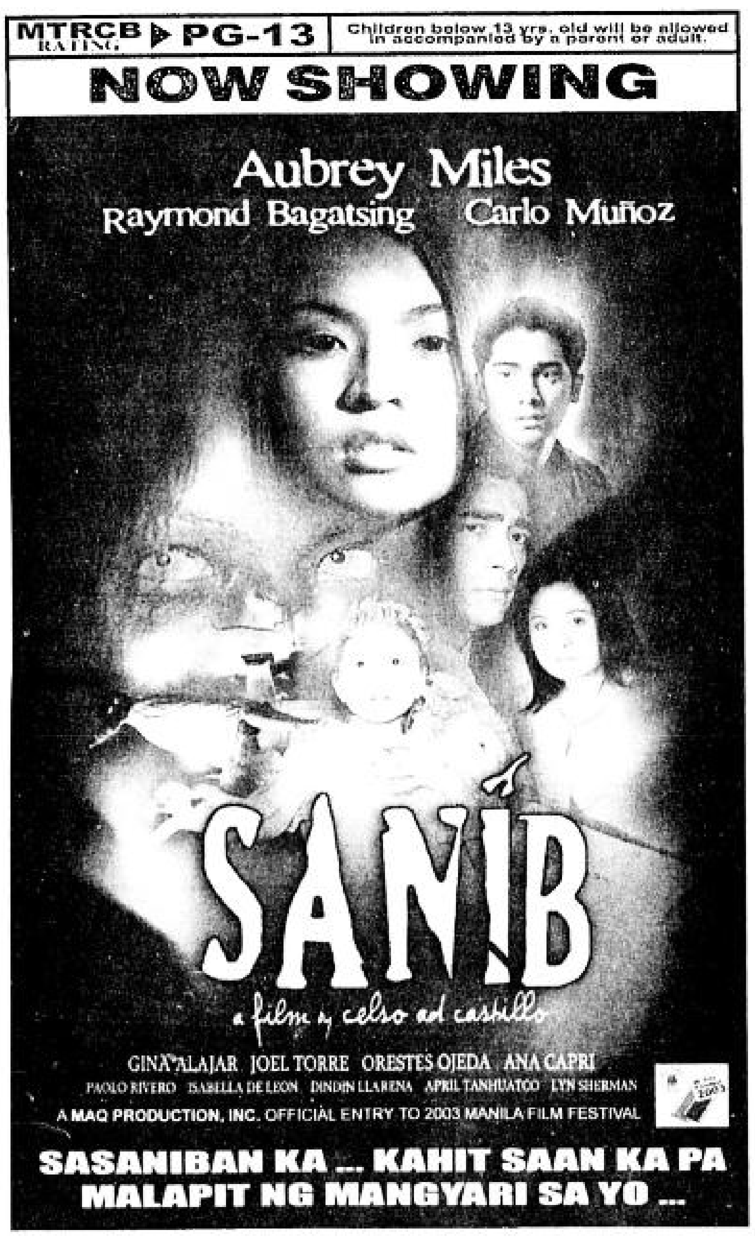
MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 19 2003 "CHANGE A LIFE" (LANI MISALUCHA) 8:30PM
JUNE 28 2003 NINA "HEAVEN SENT" 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

FRIDA R18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	AGENT CODY BANKS PG13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	TANGING INA GP 12:20,2:40,5:10, 7:35,10:00
DARKNESS FALLS PG13 12:10,2:05, 4:00,5:55	SANIB PG13 1:00, 3:10, 5:20	BRUCE ALMIGHTY PG13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 1:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
RED CARPET PREMIERE
INVITATIONAL
SNACK STUDIO INC. PREMIERE
on June 17, 2003
7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL
CINEMA 1
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
Regular Showing on June 19, 2003 at the SM CINEMAS
Simultaneously shown at
SM PAMPANGA • CEBU • ILOILO
DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
NOW SHOWING
Aubrey Miles
Raymond Bagatsing Carlo Muñoz
SANIB
a film by celso ad castillo
GINA ALAJAR JOEL TORRE ORESTES OJEDA ANA CAPRI
PAOLO RIVERO ISABELLA DE LEON DINDIN LLARENA APRIL TANHUATCO LYN SHERMAN
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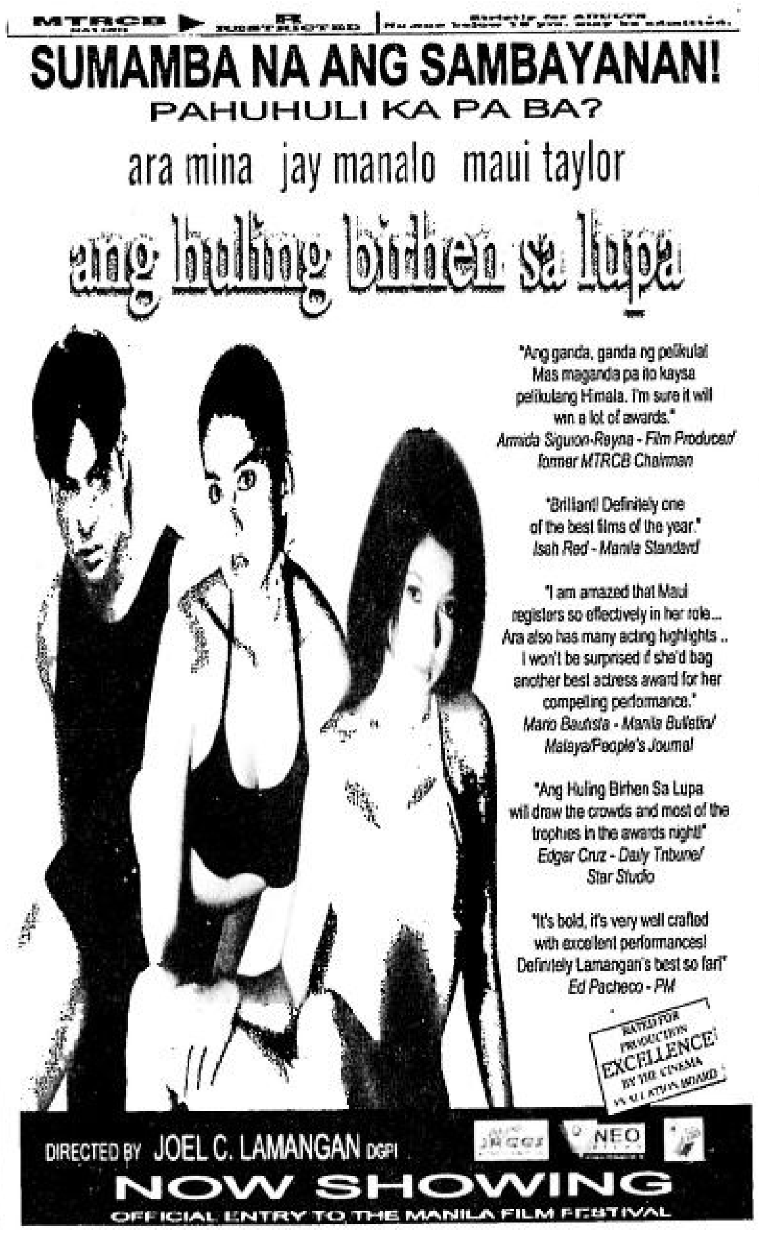
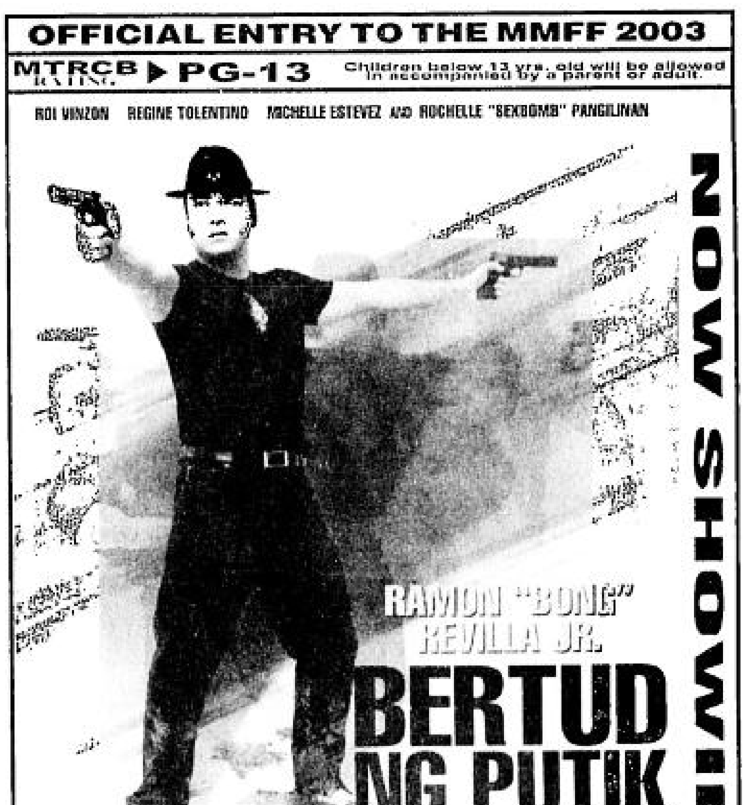
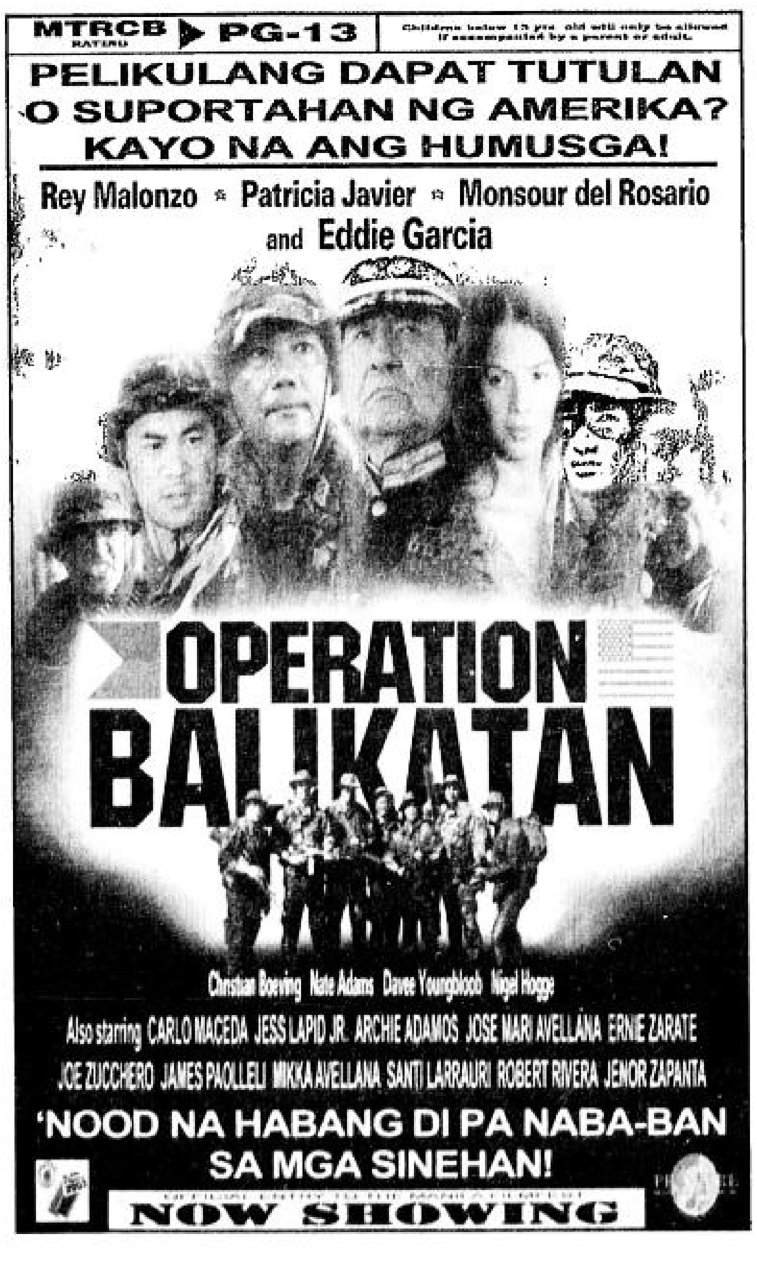
SASANIBAN KA ... KAHIT SAAN KA PA
MALAPIT NG MANGYARI SA YO ...



MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED Strictly for adults. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
SUMAMBA NA ANG SAMBAYANAN!
PAHUHULI KA PA BA?
ara mina jay manalo maui taylor
ang huling birhen sa lupa
"Ang ganda, ganda ng pelikula! Mas maganda pa ito kaysa pelikulang Himala. I'm sure it will win a lot of awards."
Armida Siguion-Reyna - Film Producer/former MTRCB Chairman
"Brilliant! Definitely one of the best films of the year."
Isah Red - Manila Standard
"I am amazed that Maui registers so effectively in her role... Ara also has many acting highlights .. I won't be surprised if she'd bag another best actress award for her compelling performance."
Mario Bautista - Manila Bulletin/Malaya/People's Journal
"Ang Huling Birhen Sa Lupa will draw the crowds and most of the trophies in the awards night!"
Edgar Cruz - Daily Tribune/Star Studio
"It's bold, it's very well crafted with excellent performances! Definitely Lamangan's best so far!"
Ed Pacheco - PM
RATED FOR PRODUCTION EXCELLENCE! BY THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD
DIRECTED BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN DGPI
NOW SHOWING
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

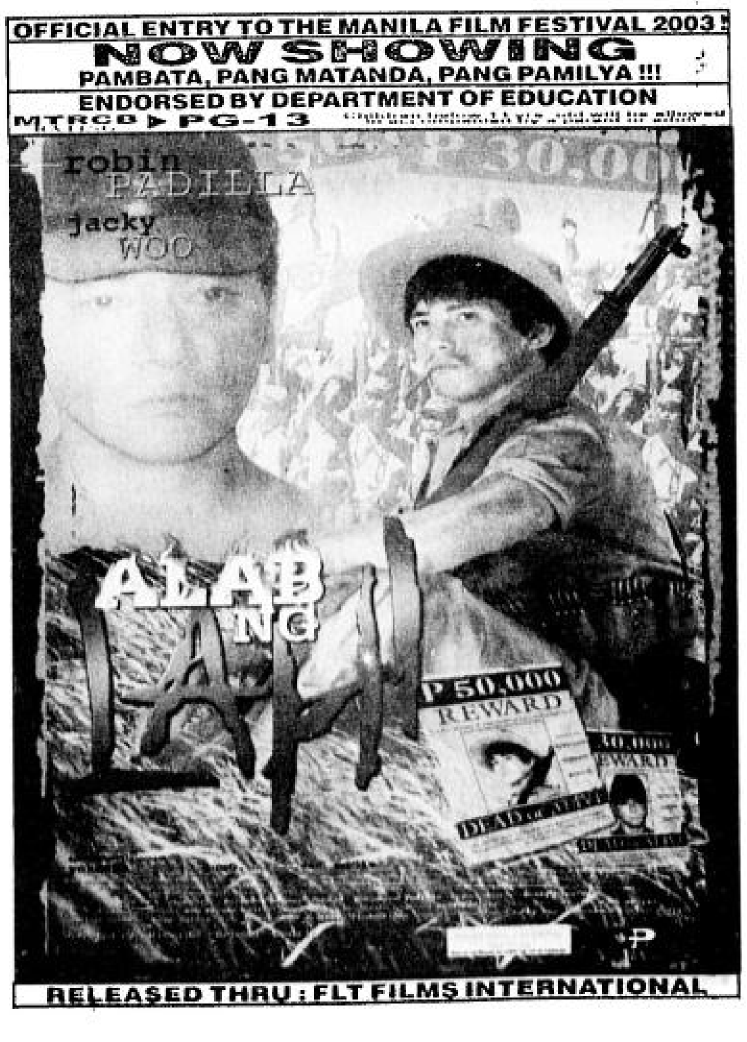


OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MMFF 2003
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
ROI VINZON REGINE TOLENTINO MICHELLE ESTEVEZ AND ROCHELLE "SEXBOMB" PANGILINAN
RAMON "BONG" REVILLA JR.
BERTUD NG PUTIK
IMUS PRODUCTIONS, INC.
DIRECTED BY AUGUSTO SALVADOR
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003
NOW SHOWING



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
PELIKULANG DAPAT TUTULAN
O SUPORTAHAN NG AMERIKA?
KAYO NA ANG HUMUSGA!
Rey Malonzo ☆ Patricia Javier ☆ Monsour del Rosario
and Eddie Garcia
OPERATION BALIKATAN
Christian Boeving Nate Adams Davee Youngblood Nigel Hogge
Also starring CARLO MACEDA JESS LAPID JR. ARCHIE ADAMOS JOSE MARI AVELLANA ERNIE ZARATE
JOE ZUCCHERO JAMES PAOLLELI MIKKA AVELLANA SANTI LARRAURI ROBERT RIVERA JENOR ZAPANTA
'NOOD NA HABANG DI PA NABA-BAN
SA MGA SINEHAN!
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
Christopher de Leon & Regine Velasquez
Dingdong Dantes
Sa radyo - big hit ang kanta!
Sa TV - big hit ang mga bida!
Sa Film Fest - Big event ang pelikula!
Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka
PELIKULA NI LOUIE LAGDAMEO IGNACIO
VIVA
NESCAFÉ TimTam LEONARDO DUNKIN' DONUTS Rexona
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FEST
NOW SHOWING

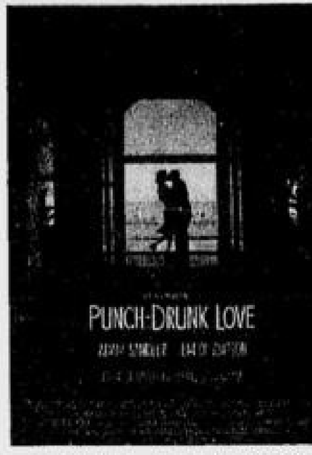


OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2003
NOW SHOWING
PAMBATA, PANG MATANDA, PANG PAMILYA !!!
ENDORSED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MTRCB PG-13
robin PADILLA
jacky WOO
ALAB NG LAHI
P 50,000 REWARD
DEAD or ALIVE
RELEASED THRU : FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

PG-13 Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13 on account of the attempted rape of the leading man by the gay manager

OPENS JUNE 19
EXCLUSIVELY AT SM MEGAMALL & SM CINEMA MANILA

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!
MON-RAK
Transistor
IS CURRENTLY BREAKING BOX OFFICE RECORDS IN ASIA... UNDOUBTEDLY THE 'PRIDE OF THAILAND,'
This Epic Love Story is the country's official entry to the 2003 Academy Awards for 'BEST FOREIGN FILM'!


AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JUNE 18 AT Greenbelt ArtFilm
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY

PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE
ADAM SANDLER EMILY WATSON

A romantic comedy about an odd, spastic man (Sandler) with seven abusive sisters who soon has three thugs chasing him down, all because of a one-time call to a professional phone sex operator made in a moment of quiet desperation. This threatens his awkwardly blossoming relationship with one of his sister's co-workers (Watson) before it gets a chance to start.

Awards: Best Director - 2002 Cannes Film Festival; Best Director. Best Supporting Actress (Watson) - 2002 Toronto Film Critics Association

COFFEE CLUB DISCUSSION ON "PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE" on June 18 at 7pm. For inquiries, contact 752-7866 or 752-7872.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

DON'T MISS AN ACHINGLY FUNNY MOVIE WITH ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST TALENTED FAMILIES
A SPECIAL FATHERS' DAY PRESENTATION
MICHAEL DOUGLAS & KIRK DOUGLAS
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY
Some families can survive anything. Even each other.

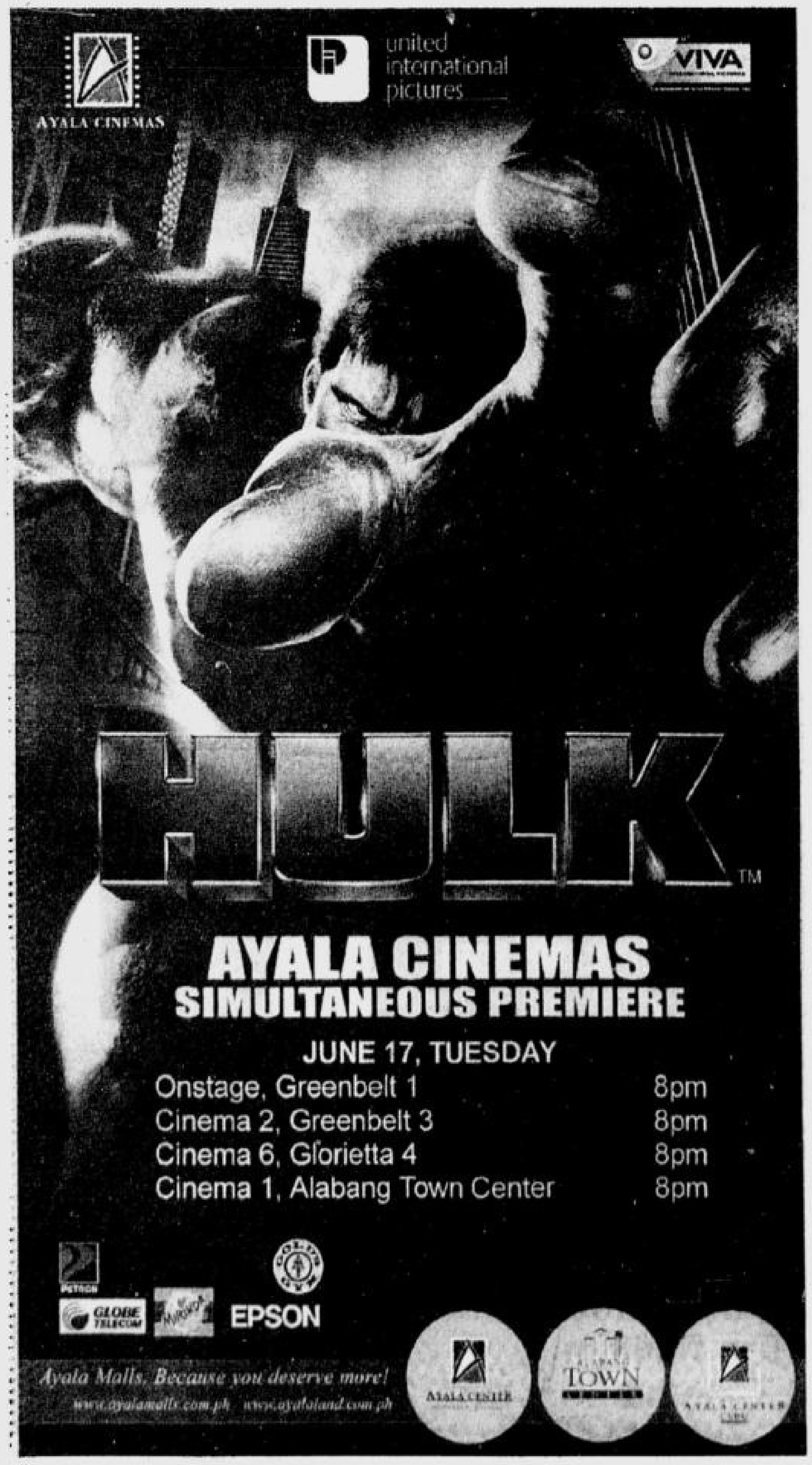
Alex Gromberg (Michael Douglas) is a man caught in the middle. Trying to avoid the mistakes his father made, Alex is navigating the tricky roles of father, son, and husband.

Onscreen together for the first time in their careers, Michael Douglas and Kirk Douglas join their real-life relations (Cameron Douglas, Diana Douglas) in a story about the loving, frustrating, reassuring, insane, and ultimately inescapable bonds of family.

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3

AYALA CINEMAS Buena Vista International

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)


AYALA CINEMAS united international pictures VIVA

HULK

AYALA CINEMAS SIMULTANEOUS PREMIERE
JUNE 17, TUESDAY
Onstage, Greenbelt 1 8pm
Cinema 2, Greenbelt 3 8pm
Cinema 6, Glorietta 4 8pm
Cinema 1, Alabang Town Center 8pm

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

MTRCB should monitor all shows, say hosts

By Marinel R. Cruz

PRODUCERS and hosts on other networks, aside from rivals ABS-CBN and GMA 7, said they welcome the monitoring by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) of all noontime shows for vulgarity–as long as it does not infringe on their freedom of self-expression.

"I have no problem with that," Deedee Siytangco told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday. "But there are certain norms of accepted social behavior that the MTRCB must consider. They cannot just suspend arbitrarily." Siytangco hosts the noontime show "Dee's Day" on RPN 9 on Wednesdays.

"Even advertisers would like to see some values in the shows where their products are being advertised," she said.

Baby de Guzman, host of the commentary show "Madam Ratsa Live," also on RPN 9, said the monitoring should not be focused on noontime shows alone but on all live shows on TV.

LAGUARDIA

"Some TV personalities, not only the hosts of noontime shows, get carried away with their hosting," said De Guzman, who is known for her hard-hitting commentary style. "Kids are also watching them. "You can never tell the effects on children of what they see or hear on TV."

She said the networks should be able to police their own ranks. "There are shows that can entertain viewers without their hosts resorting to vulgarity," she pointed out.

"People used to get offended at the sight of near-naked women dancing on TV," she also observed. "Now this is slowly being accepted as a part of variety shows."

"Masayang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN has the sexy G Girls, while GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga" has the popular Sexbomb Dancers.

Siytangco, too, said that at noon, many Filipino families watch TV while having lunch.

"What they see on TV may not be always good for them, especially the children," she said.

MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia had announced last week that "starting (June 16), the MTRCB will closely monitor all channels with noontime shows" for vulgarity. The announcement came after ABS-CBN suspended Willie Revillame and John Estrada, hosts of "Masayang Tanghali, Bayan," for one week for unbecoming conduct and use of inappropriate language on the show.

The MTRCB chief said she also recently issued "a strong warning" to Joey de Leon and the other hosts of "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

But June Josalla, executive producer of "Second Look with Anthony Pangilinan," which also airs at noon on Fridays on RPN 9, said there is no need for the MTRCB to regulate TV programs because this should be the responsibility of the producers and the networks that air them.

Aired at noon on NBN 4 is the travelogue "Isla." ABC 5 airs cartoons. IBC-13 has infomercials.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	PANGARAP KONG IBIGIN KA
Ali 2	ALAB NG LAHI
Ali 3	SANIB
Ali 4	BERTUD NG PUTIK
Ali 5	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
Ali 6	SANIB
Ali 7	OPERATION BALIKATAN
ARANETA COLISEUM	
June 16,18,20	WORLD SLASHER CUP
June 15 & 22	PBA GAMES
June 28	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES
July 12	UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES
July 13	UAAP GAMES
ELEPHANT WORLD	
ELEPHANT SHOW EVERY WEEKEND	
Fridays	Showtime: 5 PM
Saturdays	Showtime: 3 PM
Sundays	Showtime: 3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALAB NG LAHI
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-2	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-3	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SANIB
CINEMA-6	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-7	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA-14	BERTUD NG PUTIK
CINEMA-15	OPERATION BALIKATAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KITA
CINEMA 2	PUTIK
CINEMA 3	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 4	SANIB
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Korina still a Vilmanian; Ces bathes in moonlight

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAD the time of my life with my ever dependable buddy **Jonn Santillan**, close chums **Korina Sanchez** and Dr. **Vivian Sarabia** at the 5th anniversary bash of Grilla Libis. The place was packed with hip "old souls" who were grooving to the cool '70s music of "Flinstones and the Gang.

Considering that many clubs in Libis have folded up due to complaints of "noise pollution" by residents in nearby villages, Grilla is still going strong. It's neither too trendy nor too rowdy. You feel like you're right smack in a rain forest just chilling out.

After dinner, I got to interview Korina for my show "celebrityDATcom." I cannot thank her enough for allowing me to interview her at such short notice. You know how strict the networks can be. I guess one advantage of being on IBC-13 is that my show with **Angelu de Leon** and **TJ Manotoc** is not embroiled in the battle of the networks. It feels good to be in a non-threatening work environment. We can have stars from both networks as guests without having to worry about being sanctioned for it.

Due to time constraints, some parts of my one-on-one with Korina were edited out of the show, so allow me to share with you some tidbits you missed.

Growing up, Korina had dreams of being a movie star and she remains a Vilmanian to this day. I teased her, "What if an offer comes along to do the remake of Vilma's darna, would you be willing to star in the movie?"

Ever since she started her career as a broadcast journalist, she has always done her own make-up. As they say, if you want something done right, do it yourself.

I also asked her, "If you could be someone else even just for a day, who would you be?"

She smiled. "Princess Diana on her wedding day!"

Surely she would want to be a bride, too, someday soon. One of her most relished dreams is to have kids and to finally be able to stay home. But if and when Korina settles down, she won't be sitting pretty at home or be sitting on her laurels. She will keep making people sit up and listen.

Ces and the moon

I ALSO interviewed my "soul sister" **Ces Drilon** for my show. Ces invited me to the monthly "full moon" celebration at her magazine shop cum art gallery magnet+ at the ABS-CBN Loop). She and her renowned artist hubby Rock are very much into mystical stuff.

Ces, a lunar-powered creature like myself, revealed, "The moon really has its own power. I believe in bathing in the moonlight. It provides a different kind of energy."

The Katha awardee alternative band Pinikpikan played during the fete. According to Ces, *pinikpikan* in the Cordillera means beating a chicken to death until its blood turns black. I was enthralled by the unique indigenous instruments the band used. As Ces said, "Before we can claim to appreciate foreign music, we should start supporting our very own. Of course, that holds true not just for music. I love the esoteric sound of the blending of their instruments and voices. It's a welcome change from the usual MTV stuff."

My interview with Ces (which will be aired on Thursday on "celebrityDATcom" on IBC 13 at 9:30 p.m.) also includes the fact that she has this secret wish of becoming a Latin dancer. In college, she used to be known as the beer drinking champion (without the beer belly). And to pay her OB-Gyne after Ces gave birth to her first-born, she and Rock gave the doctor a nude painting of Ces while she was pregnant, made by Rock.

Incredible 'Wired'

THE ACOUSTIC event "Wired" was held last May at Dish at Rockwell. The performers were incredible. From the first song of **Paolo Santos** to the soothing music of **Noel Cabangon**, to the last song of Blow, a rock band that has **Diether Ocampo** on lead vocals, they all held the crowd's attention with their performances.

This month, Dish continues its acoustic series with **Nyoy Volante** and **Mannos** on Thursdays, and Overtone playing back to back with Pido with Take One on all Fridays except June 27 when Paolo Santos joins Pido.

"Wired" was all it promised to be, a great night of acoustic music. Do we see "Wired Part II" in the near future?

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW...

Show biz stars are often seen at The Podium in Ortigas Center. Spotted there recently were **Judy Ann Santos** with a tall date who is not from show biz, as well as former Miss Body Beautiful **Vivian Velez**. Seen dining at a Japanese restaurant were TV host **Claudine Trillo** and her husband, cager **Jason Webb**. Sexy star **Diana Zubiri** was seen having coffee with Seiko Films producer **Robbie Tan** and her manager, **Jojo Gabinete**.

Music, food at Taste Buds

SATURDAYS at Robinson's Place Manila, the trio Leggiero Strings plays at Taste Buds.

On June 21 and 28, the trio will serenade diners with a musical special.

Taste Buds has popular restaurants that offer different types of cuisines at reasonable prices.

It is on the 2nd level of the Pedro Gil wing of Robinson's Place Manila.

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PRODUCTION DESIGNER RICK HEINRICHS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FREDERICK ELMES ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STAN LEE KEVIN FEIGE PRODUCED BY GALE ANNE HURD AVI ARAD JAMES SCHAMUS LARRY FRANCO
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of
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June 17, 2003
The Podium
Cinema 2
7:30PM

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JUNE 17, 2003

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PETROCHEM TARIFF ISSUE

RP-Singapore trade war looms

SINGAPORE has threatened to withdraw tariff concessions granted to the Philippines in retaliation for Manila's decision to maintain protective tariffs on petrochemical products, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas said yesterday.

Roxas said he had sent a team of negotiators to settle amicably the dispute with fellow Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member Singapore.

Under an Asean Free Trade Area common effective preferential treatment scheme, the Philippines was to have lowered the tariffs on petrochemical products to 5 percent. But Manila in December last year submitted a list of 11 petrochemical products whose tariffs would be maintained at between 7 and 10 percent.

Singapore responded by asking for compensation for damages reportedly suffered by its exporters due to the high Philippine tariffs and warned Manila it could also withdraw concessions on its products.

Despite a series of consultations, the Philippines has yet to give Singapore any compensation.

Singapore, one of the Philippines' top export markets, also said that Manila's refusal to adhere to the Asean tariff reduction schedules was hurting the group's reputation as a cohesive trade bloc.

Roxas said the Philippines remained committed to "Asean solidarity." "But we have national interest to consider. The Philippines deems the petrochemical industry to be a strategic sector," Roxas said in a statement.

"I want to be sure that if it must come down to a trade war, the burden should not fall on uninvolved sectors like Philippine electronics exports to Singapore," he added.

Singapore is the country's biggest export market in Asia after Japan.

Local trade officials said Singapore was contemplating on withdrawing equivalent tariff concessions on other Philippine exports.

Malaysia recently expressed support to the Philippine decision to invoke an Asean protocol excluding the petrochemical industry from the tariff reduction program.

The Philippines hardly exports petrochemicals to Asean member countries. *AFP*

Budget deficit to narrow, gov't tells creditors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday assured the country's foreign lenders that the budget deficit would narrow down whether or not President Macapagal-Arroyo joins the Presidential race next year.

Budget Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin told the INQUIRER that the government's budget estimates were based on broader factors such as economic performance and longer-term goals.

Boncodin said "micro" issues such as the political ambitions of the President do not affect the department's budget forecast.

"We expect to hit the projected P202-billion budget deficit this year and we expect to cut it down further next year," Boncodin said.

The 2004 budget is still being finalized.

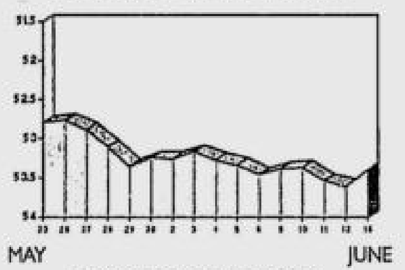
Boncodin said a number of Philippine bond holders and institutional creditors were concerned that if President Macapagal decides to run next year, the government would spend more than its programmed expenditures, thus, worsen the budget deficit.

International credit rating agencies have downgraded the country's risk factor due to worries about the government's ability to maintain fiscal discipline even though the Department of Finance has been able to keep the budget shortfall below year-ago levels.

BUDGET/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.40 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2003

¥117.54= $1

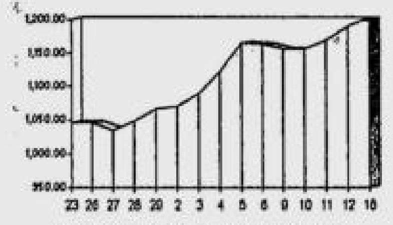
As of 5 p.m., June 16, 2003

GOLD: $359.55-360.50

per ounce Hong Kong, June 16, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares end sharply up

SHARE prices rose 1.21 percent yesterday to its highest close in nearly 12 months, driven by positive corporate earnings and economic growth prospects, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 14.47 points to 1,205.53. It is the index's highest closing level in a year, or since June 24 last year when it finished at 1,214.15.

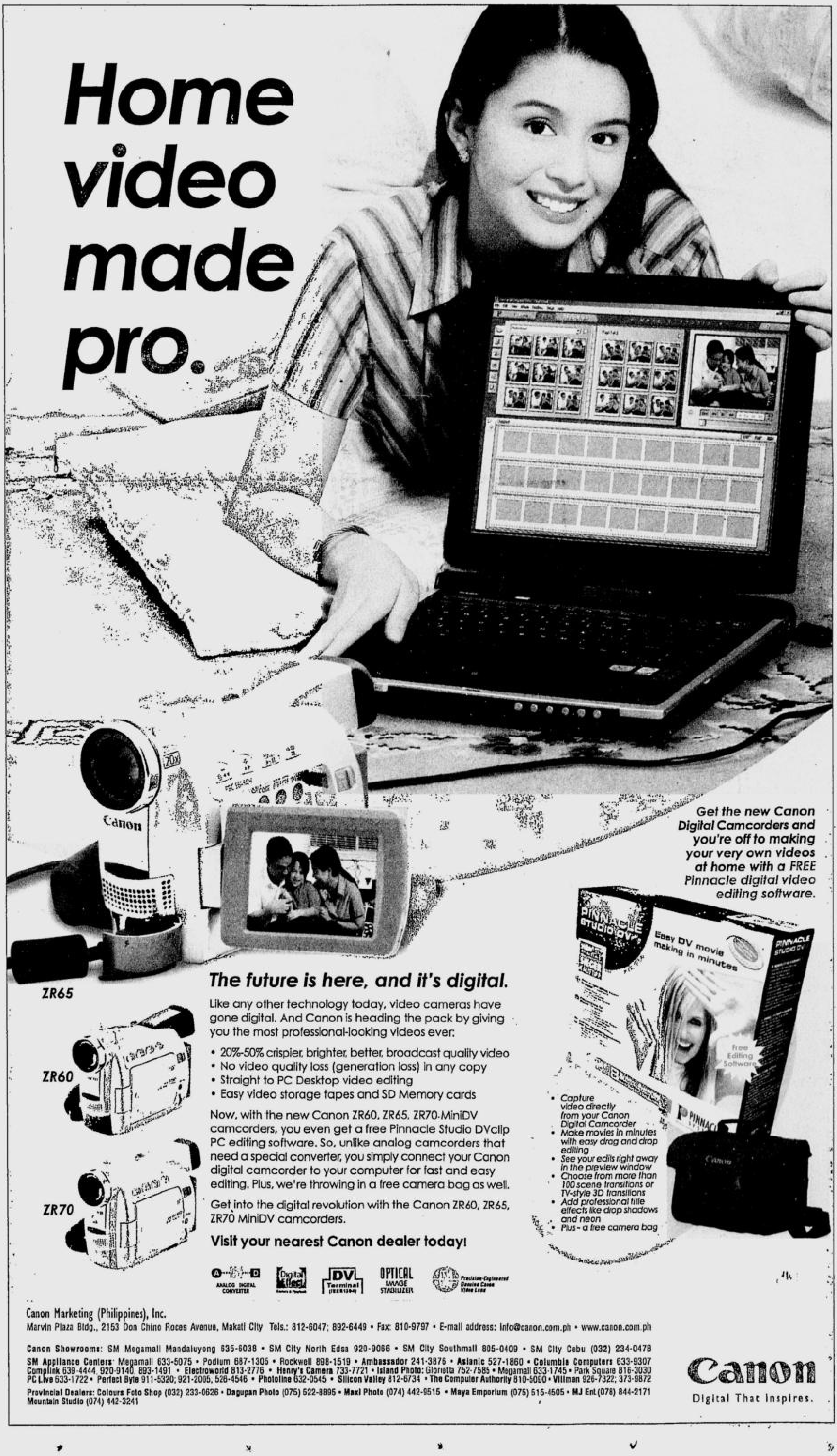
Turnover volume rose to 1.05 billion shares while value fell to P734.86 million from 433.71 million shares valued at P804.49 million on Thursday. The market was closed Friday due to a holiday.

Investors were encouraged to buy a number of blue chips, like Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), because of its strong earnings prospects, supported by sustained economic growth, said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

The index's breach of the 1,200-point level indicates it may be ready to test the 1,280-1,300 resistance level, but Liu did not say when.

"The market could also test resistance at 1,400," he said.

PLDT added P32.50 to P525 while Ayala Corp. fell 5centavos to P4.85 *AFP*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SEC goes easy with banks on financial reporting rule

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will allow the exemption of some banks from its "no qualified opinion" rule on financial reporting.

The SEC had resolved that starting with the 2003 financial statements of publicly listed companies, it would no longer accept those with "qualified opinions" or financial statements found "not following strictly the Philippine GAAP."

In a briefing last week, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said that if the primary regulators of publicly listed companies allowed some deviations from generally accepted accounting standards, the commission would consider accepting the financial statements of those companies.

In particular, Bautista said the SEC would accept qualified financial statements of publicly listed banks if they were in compliance with the guidelines of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In order to promote mergers and acquisitions, the BSP had granted incentives to banks that included a less stringent standard on the consolidation of certain accounts.

The monetary authority has also approved in principle certain accounting guidelines in connection with the establishment of special purpose vehicles that would dispose of the banks' bad assets. For example, the BSP will allow banks to amortize the loss incurred from the sale of bad assets rather than require them to follow GAAP, which would have required banks to reflect immediately the full amount of loss in such a sale.

Bautista said the SEC would accept financial statements of banks if these statements were given "qualified opinions" by external auditors based on the accounting standards allowed by the BSP.

The SEC last year tapped a team of accounting and business experts from the University of the Philippines to review the 2001 financial statements of listed firms. Of the 131 publicly listed firms covered by the review, 51 were found to have violated major accounting standards.

The most frequent violations based on the review were: non-disclosure of amounts of material related party transactions, inadequate disclosures on assets used as security loans and missing or defective Rule 68 schedules. The SEC's amended Rule 68 provides the form and content of financial statements to be filed with the SEC.

Music Corp. unit released from bankruptcy suit

PUBLICLY listed information technology firm Music Corp. yesterday said a bankruptcy court of the northern district of California has released one of its subsidiaries from bankruptcy protection under the United States' Chapter 11 laws.

The decision came after creditors of Music subsidiary Music Semiconductor Inc. voted in favor of the company's reorganization plan, which met the requirements of Section 1129 (b) of the US bankruptcy code.

"The pioneer of content admissible memory or CAM, Music Semiconductor has endured the overall slump in the semiconductor industry, emerging smaller and focused on binary CAMS, a profitable niche market with significant margins," Music said.

MSI posted $5.3 million in revenue in last year.

"The evolving need to accelerate the last mile of the network has spawned many new design wins for MSI in wireless fidelity products, including wireless TAM and ATM applications," Music said.

MSI is a 90 percent owned subsidiary of Music, which is listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Napocor's $500-M bond issue gets 'BB' rating

LONDON—Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said that it had assigned its 'BB' issue rating to a US$500-million bond issue by National Power Corp. (Napocor).

The rating is based on an irrevocable and unconditional guarantee on the bonds by the Republic of the Philippines.

Under the terms of the issue, Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) can assume Napocor's role as obligor after meeting certain conditions but without seeking the consent of bondholders. The Republic of the Philippines' guarantee on the debt will survive the substitution of PSALM for Napocor as obligor. The rating on the bonds is also expected to survive the substitution and remain at par with the foreign currency rating on the Republic of the Philippines.

PSALM was created under the Electric Power Industry Peform Act of 2001 to take ownership of Napocor's generation assets, liabilities, real estate and certain independent power producer contracts. PSALM will also assume ownership of National Transmission Corp., which was created to hold the transmission assets of Napocor. The transfer of Napocor's assets to PSALM is currently on hold pending the approval of Napocor's existing creditors and other conditions precedent. The structure, financial profile and creditworthiness of PSALM post-transfer are uncertain.

Napocor's stand-alone credit fundamentals continue to weaken with the restructuring of the electric power industry in the Philippines. Significant tariff reductions imposed on Napocor since 2001 by the Energy Regulatory Commission have had a severe impact on the company's financial profile. Reduced power demand from Manila Electric Co., Napocor's largest customer, which accounted for about 60 percent of sales in 2002, has also had a negative impact on operations. In 2002, Napocor reported a net loss of P33.7 billion compared with P10.4 billion in 2001, and P13 billion in 2000. The company reported a cash shortfall after capital expenditure and debt service of P63 billion as at Dec. 31, 2002.

Napocor's financial and operating performance is expected to deteriorate further as the Philippines proceeds with privatization and deregulation. Regulatory uncertainty, especially regarding power prices, and the recovery of purchased power charges and foreign exchange differentials, are among Napocor's main concerns. *Reuters*

Budget deficit to narrow ...

From page B1

The budget deficit for the first five months was pegged at P78.9 billion or 26 percent lower than the P107.5 billion registered last year due to higher-than-expected revenue collections.

The London-based Fitch Ratings noted that the Philippine government was borrowing six times more than it was collecting, which was the worst performance among 80 countries that it monitors.

Local stock brokerage firm Abacus Securities said in its daily report that it was too early to tell if the government would be able to meet its deficit target for the year in view of the large disbursements expected in the second half this year as the administration prepares for the May national elections.

While creditors worry about the short term impact of the elections, Fitch noted in its report that the President's decision not to run would inject a measure of uncertainty into the fiscal landscape and might rob the Philippines of continuity in its fiscal policy.

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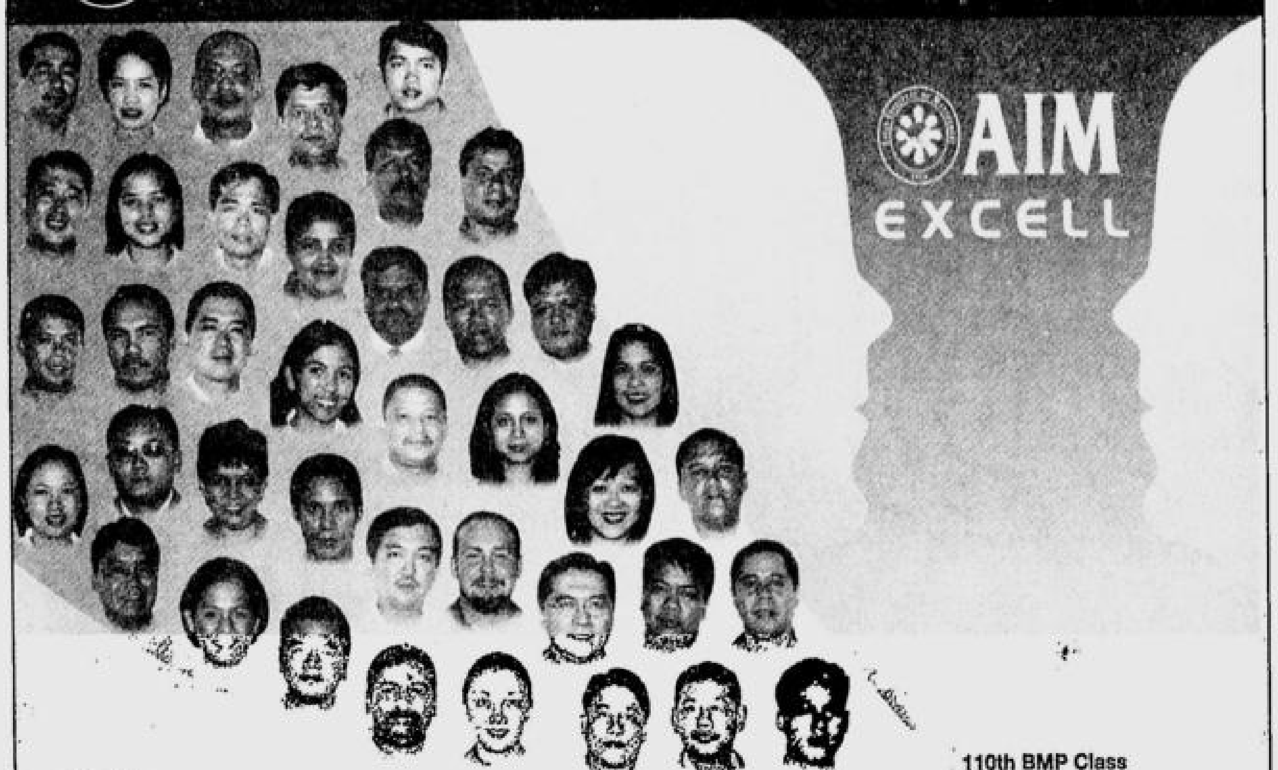

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What You Will Cover
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- Gain repeat business
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- Better manage stressful situations

What You Will Cover
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ABS-CBN expects ₱12B in revenue

LOPEZ-OWNED ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. sees a 25-percent increase in gross revenues to around P12 billion this year from P10 billion in 2002, with advertising revenues showing some growth during the first five months of the year.

ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III told reporters yesterday that the increase in consumer spending had resulted in bigger advertising spending by companies, especially those engaged in manufacturing consumer goods.

The broadcasting firm's top advertiser last year was manufacturing firm Unilever Philippines Inc., which spent around P1 billion for advertisements.

ABS-CBN international program distribution arm ABS-CBN Global Inc. Ltd. also sees growth in earnings this year. *Abigail L. Ho*

Construction firms seek tax perks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL construction firms will ask the government for the same incentives granted to export-oriented firms to shore up their bid to get a piece of the $100- million post-war reconstruction of Iraq.

Philippine Constructors Association Inc. (PCA) executive director Manolito P. Madrasto said the group would make a presentation to the Department of Finance and Department of Trade and Industry to seek incentives for overseas projects of construction firms and outsource-based services related to Iraq's reconstruction.

"We think overseas construction projects should be treated no differently from exports since we would be getting dollars for services rendered abroad," Madrasto said.

Export-oriented firms get income tax breaks, duty free importation of capital equipment and preferred income tax rates.

Madrasto said the fiscal perks would be based on the value of the contract and the number of Filipino workers to be deployed. The PCA had proposed to avail itself of the incentives through the registration with the Board of Investments. It also proposed the inclusion in the Investments Priorities Plan, an annual list of preferred investment areas that get incentives, of overseas construction activities and information technology-based engineering and design services.

In a presentation to construction firms and labor contractors, the Philippine Overseas Construction Board noted that overseas construction activities were granted incentives under Presidential Decree No. 1176 until it was withdrawn in December 1986.

The incentives would be on top of the credit guarantee to be given by Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (Philexim) to construction firms and labor contractors that have won contracts in Iraq. Philexim is willing to guarantee loans of up to P10 billion per project with an annual fee of 2.5 percent.

Madrasto explained that the incentives and guarantee would come in handy once the bidding for the meaty phase of Iraq's reconstruction gets under way in the next 18 to 24 months. He said that the projects being undertaken in Iraq were mostly for the restoration of vital roads and bridges, public buildings and utilities damaged during the war. He said prospective contractors would do well to establish a beachhead in neighboring countries in the Middle East in preparation for the bidding of more substantial projects in the coming months.

Task force files cases vs tax credit cheats

By Doris C. Dumlao

A PRESIDENTIAL task force investigating a multibillion-peso tax credit scam has filed separate criminal cases with the Ombudsman against officials of bus operator Batangas-Laguna Tayabas Bus Co. (BLTB) and textile firm Allstar Spinning Corp. as well as their alleged cohorts in cheating the government a total of P300 million.

The case filed against All-Star dated June 11, which obtained a total of P285.12 million in questionable tax credits, tagged as cohorts a number of officials of the following: the Department of Finance; oil giants Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; listed firms Filsyn Corp. and Steniel Cavite Packaging Corp.; AR Packaging Corp., Steel Asia Manufacturing Corp. and ACI Philippines Inc.

These officials, based on a petition signed by Special Presidential Task Force 156 executive director Alan Ventura, had manifested "partiality, evident bad faith or at the very least gross inexcusable negligence" by approving fraudulently issued tax credit certificates (TCCs) from All-Star to the oil companies, leading to the utilization of these TCCs in the payment of their taxes.

In the case of BLTB, which is owned by the Potenciano family, the task force filed with the Ombudsman last May 30 cases of violation of the anti-graft and corruption law, estafa through falsification of public documents, falsification of public documents and grave misconduct.

The respondents approved the tax credits despite the fact that BLTB was not entitled to it," Ventura explained.

BLTB would have been entitled to the TCC under the Omnibus Investment Code if it purchased the bus units from local manufacturers. However, he said the transaction was done through a dealer.

Likewise charged in both cases were retired Finance Undersecretary Antonio Belicena, formerly the administrator of the One-Stop-Shop Interagency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS-Center) and other officials.

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Ron Nathan

OWING to my high blood pressure, and my wife standing in front of the TV, I could not watch the Miss Universe contest. I heard that last year's runner-up had been given the crown after the winner turned out to be Dame Edna Everage from Ally McBeal.

It is easy to determine the sex of a candidate. Just do a chromosome test and ask them to take off their genes. When my wife was called away to answer the telephone, I saw the girls in swimsuits. I must confess I undresstimated Miss Dominica.

There is one man whose guts I admire, COLON POWELL. Under the guise of liberation, he has just COLONIZED Iraq. The weapons inspectors have just found a huge gun capable of firing 5 tons of mashed potatoes as far as Tel Aviv.

President Bush is elated now that he has found their weapons of mash destruction. I don't know what his interest in Iraq is, but in Church he was singing loudly: "Oil walk beside you." I think it was Abe Lincoln who said, "You can fuel some of the people some of the time." Meantime, Secretary Rumsfield is sitting on de fence.

My secretary claims she was defiled and my florist said she was deflowered. My butcher is disjointed and cannot deliver. In Moulin Rouge, Nicole Kidman was indecorous. Kafirs, an ancient race of Persians who lived in Afghanistan, . are now extinct. They were decaffeinated. If Gloria remains President, who will be device? Followers of Star Trek will know that the Enterprise is still in devoid. Procter & Gamble does not wish to deter- gents from buying soap powder. Can't stop. It's all default of my computer.

The hottest invention in golf is the bee nut. By adjusting the nut, you can alter the angle of the club so that it can be a 1-iron, a 5-iron, a wedge or even a putter. It saves carrying a bag full of clubs and golfers take it to picnics, referring to it as "a bee-nut putter sand-wedge."

The latest chess move is Bishop to the US It is known as the Bacani defense.

The Queen has knighted Roger Moore as well as Sean Connery. This should be good for the BOND market. I refused a night hood as it is too hot to wear in this country.

* * *

I was very disappointed with the response to my article last week. Only one person wrote in asking a question about my charts whereas I had 46 e-mails asking why there were no jokes. I find this incredible, bearing in mind that the market is very active and has been rising almost everyday.

Clearly, nobody is interested in making money, when all it requires is a book of graph paper and two pens. So I have abandoned all notions of writing a series of articles on technical analysis for people who do not have a computer. I will revert to topical financial observations plus, of course, the jokes.

This week, the main topic is that, for only the second time, the government is offering bonds to the public. Normally, the bonds are offered to the banks, which subscribe for them, sometimes at prices, which are unacceptable.

If a member of the public wants to buy bonds, he has to go to the banks and deal in the secondary market. Normally, the banks will not entertain you unless you want to buy P1 million or more and you have to pay commission.

However, this week, the government is offering to the public, 3-year and 5-year bonds at yields of 9.50 percent and 10.375 percent respectively. These can be bought in small denominations, as little as P5,000, and although the yields have fallen dramatically in recent weeks, the returns are still far more attractive than you can obtain on time deposit, usually between 4 percent and 6 percent, depending on the amount.

Provided you have spare cash, which you are unlikely to need for 3 or 5 years, you should withdraw it from the bank, pre-terminating if necessary, and buy one of these government bonds. The yield is much higher and although the bonds do not merit a good rating overseas, the government is unlikely to default, particularly as they are fairly short- term.

Interest is paid quarterly, instead of semi-annually, and is subject to 20 percent tax. You can obtain these bonds from LANDBANK or DBP, and you may be able to buy them from other sellers such as banks or brokers. At present, there is no PSE bond market though we have been promised one by the 3rd quarter.

If it should be necessary for you to sell, the banks will provide a secondary market but at prices, which are dependent on interest rates. Small amounts will not be welcomed and will command a lower price. As rates seem close to the bottom, you may lose a few points but bonds do not fluctuate like stocks because of their maturity date.

Nevertheless, do not put short-term funds into the bonds as a speculation as interest rates are likely to rise. The offer is only good for one week.

Turning to Wall Street, the market has rallied for 3 months with the NASDAQ up 30 percent and the DOW 22 percent. During this period, the unemployment rate has moved to a 9-year high of 6.1 percent and there has been no real sign that the economy is recovering as yet.

On Friday, the market went into retreat after the University of Michigan's Consumer Confidence index unexpectedly fell 5 points. If investors do not feel that the economy is improving, why has it rallied so much? This market looks vulnerable short-term and the monthly deficit was little changed at $42 billion, hardly surprising when China's exports are growing at a phenomenal 39 percent, even with SARS. The weak dollar has taken the Chinese Yuan down with it but China is the yuan to benefit.

As for our own market, we are at the whim of foreign brokers. If they continue to buy, as they have done these past two weeks, the market can rise further, but if they decide to cash out, it will fall. All fund managers, foreign and local, want the market to stay up until the quarter day, June 30, for reasons I have previously explained.

TEL has been the driving force with foreign brokers buying large amounts every day. Yesterday, following bullish reports from US analysts, foreign brokers rushed into the market and were net buyers of P120 million worth of stock. At one time, the stock was up from P492.50 (Friday's close) to P540, an increase of P47.50. There was some local profit taking but the stock was still up P32.50 at P525. GLO has barely moved because of its poor liquidity, AC, Singapore Tel and Deutsche Telecom own 84 percent of the stock.

Sooner or later, GLO will have to catch up. SMCB has plenty of liquidity but the shares have been falling steadily in a rising market, which shows the necessity of being selective. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

Sta. Elena develops new community

RESIDENTIAL resort community developer Sta. Elena Properties Inc. (SEPI) will soon build its latest residential development project in Sta. Rosa, Laguna—the Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre.

Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre will be developed within Sta. Elena Village, a 260-hectare resort community with one of the world's best golf courses, the 27-hole Sta. Elena Golf Course and an Audubon-certified nature sanctuary.

STA. Elena boasts of having one of the world's best golf courses.

"With Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre, we can fulfill every Filipino family's dream of living in a beautiful place that every family would love to call home," said Vienvenido Tantoco Jr., SEPI executive vice president and general manager, during the launch of Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre last June 5.

Just a 45-minute drive from Makati City, Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre offers Filipino families world-class amenities as well as quality infrastructure and development.

"We envision Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre to be an ideal community where Filipino families can build their dream homes," Tantoco said. "We have applied the best design principles of the New Urbanism concept to improve the lifestyle of the Filipino family.

He said Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre has adopted the New Urbanism concept to offer modern-day Filipino families more privacy, better security and a more community-friendly environment.

Architect Felino Palafox Jr., the project's master planner, said that with the New Urbanism concept, Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre would be developed into a community where people can live, work and play. Palafox is the principal, founder and managing partner of Palafox and Associates.

"At Sta. Elena, you can walk or bike when you want to meet your friends in the neighborhood or when you have to go to the grocery store. Using your car is just your third choice," he said.

He added that Sta. Elena has been designed so that everything is interconnected, both physically and visually, from the windows to the front of homes, from the sidewalks to the main roads, from the garage to the back alleys, from the house to the backyard of forests and fairways.

"When fully developed, Sta. Elena would have offices, leisure and recreation centers, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, churches and clinics," Palafox said.

Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre is the second phase of residential development in Sta. Elena Village, one of the major residential development projects in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. It will offer 150 lots with sizes ranging from 300-500 square meters.

Construction will begin this year, and the village will be ready to take in residents by 2005. The first phase—the Sta. Elena Village Banahaw, a 13-hectare island village encircled by fairways, was completed end-2001.

Sta. Elena Village Banahaw is made up of 100 lots with areas of 600 to 1000 square meters.

INTEREST RATES

June 16, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 16-Jun-03 (%)	MART1 12-Jun-03 (%)
1 Month	6.3096	6.2385
3 Months	6.3211	6.2346
6 Months	7.3731	7.2904
1 Year	7.5346	7.5
2 Years	8.4827	8.4904
3 Years	9.5442	9.5635
4 Years	10.1135	10.1346
5 Years	10.4904	10.4808
7 Years	11.3365	11.3135
10 Years	11.6404	11.6039
20 Years	12.2154	12.1654
25 Years	12.6519	12.6635

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 16, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	584,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	48.5	47	48.5	1,156,900
China Banking Corp.	710	710	710	710	400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34.5	33.5	34	385,200
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29	29	1,051,200
Philippine National Bank	23.5	24.75	23.5	24.25	155,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	3,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.5	8,000
Security Bank Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.25	75,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.75	19	18.75	19	6,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1495	1495	1495	1495	850
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1100	1100	1,930
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	17.25	16.5	17	32,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.76	0.81	0.76	0.79	16,840,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	620	620	620	89,280
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.043	0.041	0.043	7,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	6,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	12,160,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	540	505	525	408,970
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	17,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.1	8.4	7.8	8.4	951,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.75	12.75	12.25	12.5	1,061,300
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.84	3,764,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	2,845,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.8	1,382,000
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	390,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	4	3.5	4	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	600,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	5,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	32,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.75	470,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	53.5	54.5	99,800
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	61.5	62.5	598,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.45	4.65	4.45	4.65	757,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.85	11,467,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.38	2.34	2.38	1,376,000
APC Group Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	7,800,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.6	765,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.51	0.46	0.51	33,850,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	520,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	61,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.7	563,000
Ionics Inc.	0.8	0.86	0.78	0.85	3,830,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.6	1.56	1.58	2,001,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.71	1,330,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	0.0975	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	2,210,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.38	3,940,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	15,999,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.9	1.5	1.9	328,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	16	15.75	16	106,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	5,950,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	950,000
BONDS, PREFFERED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17.25	16.75	17	168,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	1,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	3,971,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.22	0.18	0.22	220,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	4,860,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	14,210,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.0775	0.085	0.065	0.0775	11,200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.165	0.17	800,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	60,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	19,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	12,219,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	750,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	45,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0042	0.0038	0.0042	27,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	210,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	6,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	80,000

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Aboitiz Power Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., voted to distribute all corporate investments other than investments in power generation as property dividends to all stockholders of record as of June 16.

* * *

VITARICH Corp. shall hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 2 p.m., at the Columbus Room, Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

THE BOARD of Primetown Property Group Inc. appointed the following members of the nominations committee; Kenneth Yap, Ferdinand Jose, Gilbert Yap and Marlyn Usi.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. said it plans to issue, on an opportunistic basis, P2.5 billion worth of five-year, fixed rate retail bonds early next year to refinance relatively high interest-bearing debt.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. stated in a letter last June 12 that it is in various stages in the sale of its non-core assets. The divestment of non-core assets, those outside power generation and media, is part of its balance sheet management plan. No sale has been completed to date.

* * *

VERIZON Communications Inc. reached an agreement with Benpres Holdings Corp. for the sale of 21,751,351 common shares it owns in Bayan Telecommunications Holdings. Verizon currently holds a 19.4-percent share in Bayantel. Another existing stockholder exercised its rights of first refusal to buy 593,963 common shares from those offered by Verizon.

Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

June 16, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.842886	1.000000	53.612000
Japan	Yen	0.007177	0.008515	0.456500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.409643	1.672400	89.660700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.108077	0.128223	6.874300
Switzerland	Franc	0.649223	0.770238	41.294000
Canada	Dollar	0.631470	0.749176	40.164800
Singapore	Dollar	0.487218	0.578035	30.989600
Australia	Dollar	0.562524	0.667379	35.779500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.235831	2.652590	142.210700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224770	0.266667	14.296600
Brunei	Dollar	0.485813	0.576369	30.900300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020261	0.024038	1.288700
UAE	Dirham	0.229494	0.272272	14.597000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.186400	63.605300
Argentina	Peso	0.298366	0.353982	18.977700
Brazil	REAL	0.295232	0.350263	18.778300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134733	0.159847	8.569700
India	Rupee	0.018087	0.021459	1.150500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221842	0.263193	14.110300
Mexico	New Peso	0.080024	0.094940	5.089900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488629	0.579710	31.079400
Norway	Kroner	0.121762	0.144459	7.744700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014643	0.017373	0.931400
South Africa	Rand	0.107528	0.127571	6.839300
Korea	Won	0.000707	0.000839	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.110056	0.130570	7.000100
Syria	Pound	0.020069	0.023810	1.276500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024410	0.028960	1.552600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000528	0.000627	0.033600

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"Oh, to shoot life's meaning into future years
That they may lend it utterance
And salute love that endures."
(Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

NESTOR VILLAROSA SANTIAGO

of Cabanatuan City and Washington, D.C.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 12, 2003
at Boston, Massachusetts at the age of 54.

Most beloved and most loving Husband to
AURORA ASPERILLA-SANTIAGO

Most beloved and most devoted Father to
NINA CECILIA SANTIAGO

Beloved and loving Brother to
CEILO MARIA S. MYERS and husband **ROBERT**
MERCEDITA S. NOLLEDO
TEODORO V. SANTIAGO and wife **ALECTIS**

Beloved and loving Son-in-Law to
JOSE and **JOSEFA ASPERILLA**

He is also survived by adoring nieces and nephews, uncles, aunts, cousins and many dear friends. He will be remembered with joy and much love in all of our hearts forever.

His remains lie in state at Devol Funeral Home, 2222 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, D.C. His family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Mass of Christian burial will be offered at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 36th Street, Washington, D.C. Interment private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

SOLEDAD ORDEN ALBAYALDE VDA. DE QUEDDENG

June 14, 1915 to June 14, 2003

Formerly of Masupe, Balaoan, La Union
then Lamao, Bataan then Marikina City

She was predeceased by her husband, **Andres Queddeng, Sr.** in 1992 & by 2 sons, **Andres Queddeng, Jr.** & **Mario Queddeng**, and by 3 brothers, **Rev. Pacifico Albayalde, Domingo Albayalde** & **Mariano Albayalde**. Survivors include 2 sons, **Arturo Queddeng** & family of Sydney, Australia, **Dr. Caesar Queddeng** & family of Sydney, Australia, daughters, **Rency de los Reyes** & family of Marikina City, **Juliet Lindsey** & family of Tampa, Florida, **Tita Madarang** & family of Cary, No. Carolina, **Eulenia Queddeng** & family of Kalookan City. She is also survived by her only sister **Aurora Obillo** & family of Quezon City, brother, **Pedro Albayalde** & family of Marivelez, Bataan, grandchildren, great grandchildren, cousins, nephews & nieces.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 14, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City till Friday, June 20, 2003. Cremation to follow after the memorial Mass at 12:00 noon.

"From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live."

Ephraim Macatiag Campos

Comelec Registrar, Sinait Ilocos Sur

Died peacefully on June 15, 2003 at the age of 37.

His loving parents retired **RTC Judge Ulpiano Campos Sr.** and **Adoracion Campos;**

Girlfriend **Genalyn;**

Brother, sisters and in-laws **Stella** and **Boling**, **Boyyong** and **Bheng**, **Pat** and **Tony**, nephews and nieces, the **Campos** and **Macatiag** families, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Cubao, Quezon City near Nepa Q-mart. He will be transferred to his hometown, Sinait Ilocos Sur tonight at 11 PM.

TOMAS ZALASAR DADIA

OF BLUE RIDGE, Q.C. & TAYABAS, QUEZON
PEACEFULLY RETURNED TO GOD, THE LORD HE LOVED AND SERVED FAITHFULLY

DECEMBER 29, 1929 – JUNE 15, 2003

His bereaved wife **Gracia Alandy**; children & in-laws **Gilda & Zeus (Custodio), Marlo, Ray & Lulu (Pascual), Elo & Junn (Gonzales), Arlene & Bob (Torres)**; grandchildren **Eugene, Earl & Grace, Erica, Edward, Timmy, Teetap, Cathrina, Chris, Jeffrey, Carissa, Arlby, Amanda, Tom, Trisha & Trinna** and great grandson **Marcus**.

In laws **Letty Alandy Checoura, Bods** and **Manny Alandy & Larry Tolentino**, Relatives & Friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the **CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, GREEN MEADOWS.**

INTERMENT will be on **Friday, JUNE 20, 2003** at **LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK, MARIKINA** after the 1:00 PM Mass.

ATTY. EULOGIO VILLARUZ REYES

"OLOY"

OF ROXAS CITY / KALIBO AND PASIG
FEBRUARY 13, 1938 – JUNE 16, 2003

His wife **Josefina Olaso**; children **Ana** & **Lewis**, **Jojo** & **Juliet**, **Matt** and **Luke**; grandchildren **Miguel**, **Toyang**, **Isabel**, **Isay** and **Tish**; his brothers **Alex** (†), **Amado** and **Bishop Gabriel Reyes, DD**; in-laws, other relatives and friends mourn his passing away but joyously celebrate his grand reunion with the Lord Jesus.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, 19 June 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina Crematorium after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel Church.

DEATH NOTICES

June 17, 2003

FRANCISCO "LOLOY" VEGA MONTEVIRGEN
Died June 14, 2003 at the age of 68
His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat Road, Parañaque. Interment will be announced later.

TITA PANGALIMAN CORTES
Died June 13, 2003 at the age of 66.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment tomorrow, Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 9:00 AM Mass

ALEXANDRA LOURDES "RIA" PADILLA ROQUE
Died June 14, 2003 at the age of 26.

Her body will be transferred to Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City this afternoon.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12 Noon tomorrow, June 18, 2003. Interment will immediately follow at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium.

MARCELINO REYES RAYMUNDO

Died peacefully on June 16, 2003
at the age of 86.

His wife **Carmen Raymundo**; children and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at FLORESCO FUNERAL HOMES 511 A. Mabini St., Caloocan City.

Interment will be announced later at the North Cemetery.

Our Dearly Beloved

DEMETRIA R. VELASCO

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 15, 2003
at the age of 78.

Her loving children **CESAR & LULU, DAN & ALBIE, BRIX & CYNTHIA**; grandchildren **Cathryna, Angelica, Veronica, Dexter, Annaliza, Diana, Zyra, Kathleen & Clarissa**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains currently lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City and will be transferred to her Pagsanjan residence on Tuesday morning, June 17, 2003.

Interment will be on June 19, 2003, 1:30 PM at the Ala-ala Memorial Park, Pagsanjan, Laguna.

ATTY. AMOR VARGAS BELENA

Mayor, San Jose City, N.E.
1978-1992

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 13, 2003 at the age of 87.

His loving son **Mayor Alexander Sobrepeña Belena**; daughter-in-law **Marivic Violago Belena**; grandchildren **Jose Anton, Alyssa, Nicole, Erika** and **Alex Miguel**; sisters **Dometila, Tarcila** and **Jimena**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Belena residence, 33 Rizal St., San Jose City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at the Santuario de Sto. Niño after the Necrological Service at 2:15 p.m. at the San Jose City Hall.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..." **Corinthians 15:22**

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517-A Arnaiz St.,
Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846;
843-1801; 845-4836

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438;
400-5394

> *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour, for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant."*
>
> **Magnificat**

ANGEL REYES ROMERO, SR., M.D.

Physician and University Professor, University of Santo Tomas
World War II Veteran

March 22, 1914 – June 16, 2003

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 89.

His wife **Estrella Angeles-Romero, M.D.** (†);

His children **Rafael** and **Corona Ledda-Romero** (†), **Antonio, M.D.** and **Jesusa Navarro-Romero, M.D., Angel Jr.** and **Maria Leonora Palma-Romero**, and **Ester Lourdes** (†);

His grandchildren **Richie** and **Rina; Joanne Barbara** and **Tony Jr.; Maria Inmaculada, Maria Rhodora Romero-Manaloto** and **Simon Randy Manaloto;**

His brothers, sisters, in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City on June 19, 2003, Thursday, after the 8 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church.

MAURICIO G. GAERLAN

September 22, 1898 – June 14, 2003

of San Juan, La Union and Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 14, 2003 at the age of 104.

His loving wife **CANDELARIA**; children and their spouses **NATY** and **OSCAR** (†), **PRECY, RUDY** and **GRAISE, BENJIE, AL** and **CLAUDETTE, MAE** and **CHITO, PAUL** and **ANNA**, and **FAYE**; his grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives, request those whose lives he touched to remember him in their prayers with love and thanksgiving.

His remains lie in state at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Riverside Village, Sta. Lucia, Pasig City. Interment will be on Friday, June 20, 2003 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig after the 9:00 AM Mass.

> *"My soul finds rest in God alone*
> *my salvation comes from Him:*
> *He alone as my rock and my salvation:*
> *He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."*
>
> **Psalm 62:1**

ATTY. JOSE ORO "BOY" B. FAJARDO

Of Baao, Camarines Sur
Health Vision Corp., Subic, Zambales
Ateneo de Manila College of Law, Class 1974

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 15, 2003 at the age of 53.

His loving wife **TERESITA PALOMO FAJARDO**; children **MILDRED, AYN** and **ELAINE**; mother **ELNORA**; brother **MAURO, JR.**; sister **ELNORITA**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, June 20, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

CLASSIFIEDS

BCDA
BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 of BLock 55 at Fort Bonifacio Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,266 square meters

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization

The TOR for the Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 in Block 55 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 09 June 2003 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP5,000.00 payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., 19 June 2003. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

or they can contact Ms Aileen R. Zosa or Ms Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 510-0424 or 510-0425 or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) Chairman
ADP Committee-2

(PDI–June 5, 11 & 17, 2003)

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Experts seek signs of US economic recovery

WASHINGTON—For the past three years, the US economy has taken hits from the bursting stock market bubble, a recession and terrorist attacks. Conditions now, finally, offer the prospect of better growth over the last six months of the year.

Of course, forecasters acknowledge, they made similar predictions in 2002 and 2001, and were proved wrong.

They now insist that new tax cuts, a weakened dollar, falling interest rates and other positive forces seem to give their latest optimistic forecast a better chance of becoming a reality.

For one, manufacturing companies that have shed more than 2 million jobs over the past three years are starting to see omens of better days. That is due in part to the weaker dollar, which makes their products more competitive on foreign markets.

The trend raises hopes that the decline in manufacturing employment may end soon as businesses that have slashed inventories start to step up production to meet demands of new orders.

Help on the demand side is coming from the $330 billion tax cut just passed by Congress. Consumers will begin seeing their shares in paychecks starting next month.

David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York, said he believed the tax cuts should add as much as 1.5 percentage points to growth over the next year.

As measured by the gross domestic product, the overall economy has averaged growth of less than 2 percent over the past nine months. Wyss is predicting growth will jump to a 3.5 percent rate in the July-September quarter and 5 percent in the final three months of this year.

"The government is doing its part to get the economy going again," Wyss said. "We are running big deficits, reflecting higher spending for defense and the tax cuts."

He said growth should average between 4 percent and 4.5 percent for all of 2004. That pace would begin to make a dent in the unemployment rate, which was at a nine-year high of 6.1 percent in May.

Improved growth cannot come too soon for incumbent politicians such as President George W. Bush, who face reelection in 2004.

Many analysts believe the jobless rate will peak at around 6.4 percent this summer before gradually improving as the economy grows.

"To reassure his reelection, Bush needs to see the unemployment rate closer to 5 percent than 6 percent," Swonk said. "That will make voters happier with incumbents."

Most analysts believe the country's first recession in a decade, which began in March 2001, probably ended in December 2001. The rebound has been jagged, however, with one quarter of strong growth followed by a weaker one as the economy has had to deal with different kinds of jolts.

A year ago, analysts thought the economy was poised for a sustained takeoff. Then the stock market began to tumble again because of worries about corporate accounting scandals. Also, rising oil prices spurred by war worries before the Iraq invasion sent consumer and business confidence into tailspins.

Many of those negative factors seem to be fading, helped by the tax cuts to bolster consumer confidence and a weaker dollar that has lifted manufacturers' fortunes.

The Federal Reserve, which has driven interest rates to a 41-year low, is signaling readiness to reduce rates again.

Analysts say the biggest dangers are political crises in the Middle East, North Korea or elsewhere that could undermine the stock market rebound, drive down consumer confidence and lead to higher oil prices.

"The things to watch will be energy prices and consumer and business confidence," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis. "But let's hope we are right this time around." *AP*

Asian stocks fall on weak US data

SINGAPORE—Stocks backtracked in Asia on Monday after a deterioration in consumer sentiment dented hopes for a US economic recovery, with only talk of Japanese intervention preventing the dollar from sliding.

Shares fell off six-month highs in Tokyo and an 11-month peak in a regional index after an unexpected decline in a US confidence indicator dragged down Wall Street stocks on Friday.

Japan's Nikkei stock average closed down 1.6 percent at 8,839.83. The broad MSCI Asia Pacific Free Index ex-Japan was off a quarter of a percent.

"The Nikkei's failure to clear the 9,000 hurdle last week raised a few doubts about the sustainability of this rally," said Koji Muneoka, head of domestic sales trading at HSBC Securities.

Hong Kong shares dipped 0.2 percent, while Singapore was off half a percent. Taiwan closed up a fifth of a percent, at a four-month high, and Australia closed flat.

"Obviously with the US stats and the US markets a bit softer, we would expect to see a bit of weakness," said Martin Lakos, associate director at Australia's Macquarie Equities.

South Korea sagged 1.1 percent after shares in SK Group companies, the fourth-biggest conglomerate, sank on a bail-out plan for a struggling unit.

China airline stocks rose in Hong Kong after the World Health Organization (WHO) removed a SARS-related travel ban for most of the mainland. China Southern Airlines Co. Ltd. jumped 4.4 percent and China Eastern Corp. Ltd. rose 3.6 percent. *Reuters*

Airbus CEO confirms 300 aircraft deliveries

LE BOURGET, France—The European aircraft maker Airbus confirmed Sunday its 2003 target of 300 aircraft deliveries, despite the aviation industry's worst ever crisis.

"This downturn is the most severe crisis our industry has ever faced," Noel Forgeard, Airbus president and chief executive, said at a news conference on the opening day of the Paris Air Show, the world's biggest aviation showcase.

"The three years ahead will be difficult for all the industry players and for Airbus, too," he added.

Yet Airbus, the arch-rival of US group Boeing Company, "remains confident" of reaching its 2003 delivery target of 300 aircraft and sees about 250 aircraft orders this year, he said.

Forgeard had said in April that he would update the group's delivery forecast in mid-June, after assessing the consequences of the war in Iraq and the SARS virus epidemic.

Even the 41 aircraft destined for airlines in the "SARS zone" will be delivered, he added, although some of those deliveries may be delayed until 2004.

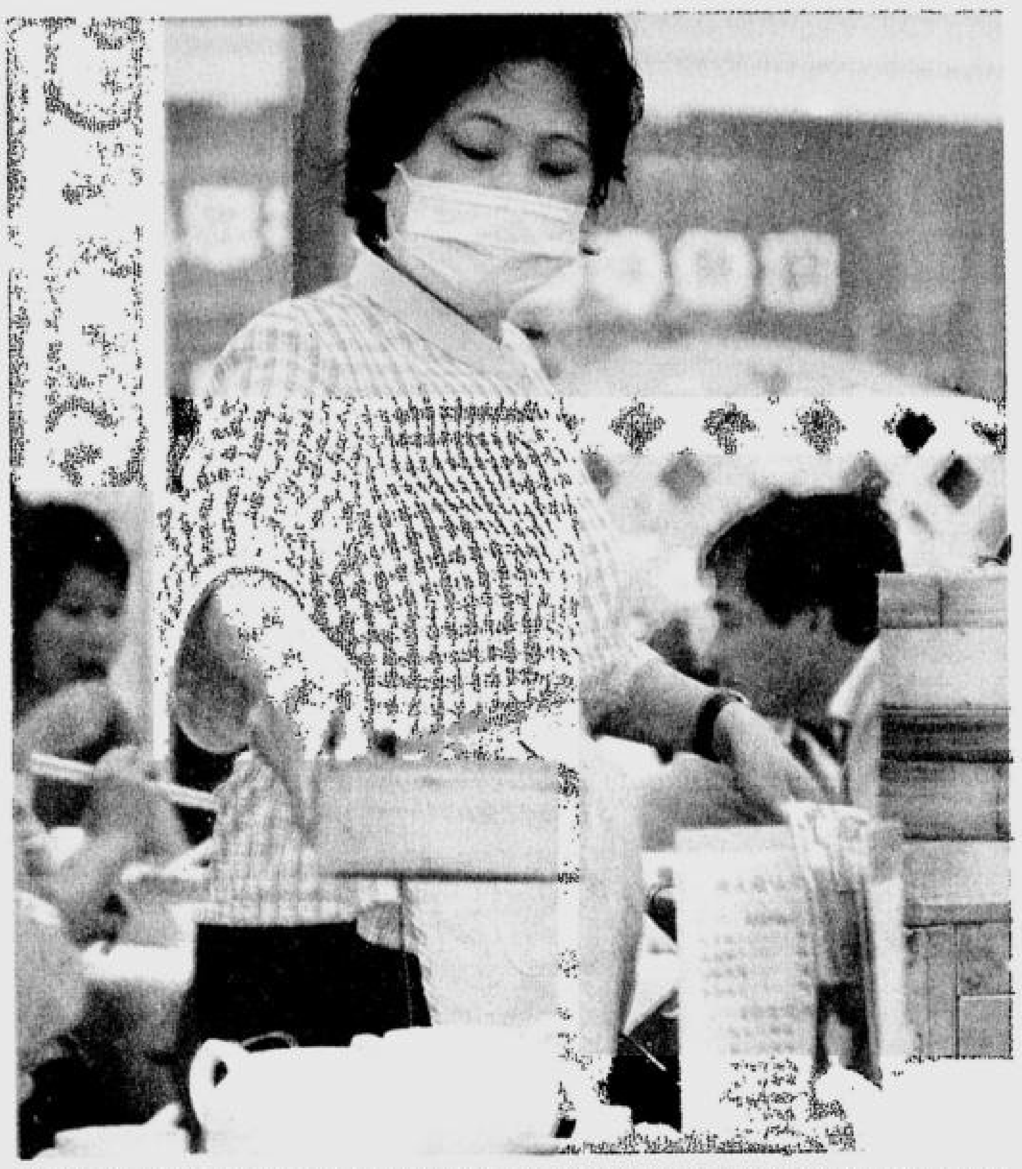
More orders will be announced during the week, he said. The company already has 156 new orders on its books this year.

"This might be a low year for orders but we are doing well in the market," he said.

With regard to the planned superjumbo A-380, Forgeard confirmed that the group would have more than 125 new orders this year.

However, he refused to be drawn into forecasting deliveries for 2004 and 2005, noting the volatility of the market.

Forgeard also said he believes the European aircraft manufacturer, in which BAE Systems holds 20 percent and the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company (EADS) holds 80 percent, may deliver around the same number as Boeing next year. *AFP*



AN ATTENDANT wearing a mask offers "dim sum" at a Chinese restaurant, one of the hard-hit businesses due to the SARS outbreak, in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is expected to report on Tuesday that its unemployment rate climbed to a record high of 8.3 percent in the three months to end May as SARS hit the economy, several local newspapers reported on Monday. The economic of SARS, which has infected 1,755 people in the territory and killed 294, threatens to push Hong Kong into its third recession in six years. REUTERS

Thai economy grows 6.7 percent

BANGKOK—Thailand's economy grew a much stronger-than-expected 6.7 percent in the first quarter, showing little impact from SARS and prompting the authorities Monday to raise their 2003 forecast by a full one percentage point to 4.5-5.5 percent.

At the same time, SARS will undercut the second quarter performance, when the worst of the downturn in tourism and services will be felt but the impact should then moderate over the last six months of the year.

The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) said gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter compared with the year earlier was supported by increases in production and capacity utilization, and improved employment conditions.

NESDB secretary-general Chakramon Phasukvanich said expectations for full-year growth had been increased from an earlier forecast of 4-5 percent due to a range of government measures to support growth.

"The revision in full-year GDP growth was also driven by the significantly stronger-than-expected first quarter GDP," he said.

Chakramon said GDP was underpinned by relatively low interest rates and a less-than-expected impact from SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which shook the region's economies.

The impact on the Thai economy from the war in Iraq was also less severe than expected, he said.

The number of foreign tourists dropped by 12.5 percent in March amid the SARS scare but exports continued to increase rapidly and oil prices declined to the stable level of 25-26 dollars per barrel. *AFP*

China retail growth slowest in five years

BEIJING—China's retail sales rose just 4.3 percent year on year in May, the lowest growth in five years, as the SARS outbreak drove people away from restaurants and shops, the government said on Monday.

Retail sales began to suffer in April, when China admitted it had covered up the extent of the SARS outbreak and launched an intense public campaign to check the disease. Sales that month rose 7.7 percent year on year.

They rose 8.8 percent in 2002 and a year-on-year 9.2 percent in the first quarter of 2003—a performance already viewed by many analysts as rather weak for China's high-revving economy.

Retail sales are expected to bounce back somewhat this month as Beijing and other cities get back to business.

"The recovery is probably already here, but it will take a little while for it to return to normal," said Yiping Huang, an economist with Salomon Smith Barney in Hong Kong. *Reuters*

GE, employees strike new deal

NEW YORK—General Electric Co., the world's largest manufacturing company, said on Sunday it had reached a tentative four-year deal with two of its largest unions regarding wages, pensions and other employee benefits.

If the agreement is supported by the union members then it would not only help GE avert a potential workers strike but it would also act as a guideline for other manufacturing companies that are desperate to restructure labor costs in a weak US economy.

The agreement was reached between GE's management and the International Union of Electronic Workers-Communication Workers of America (IUE-CWA) and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE). Both unions cover 16,000 employees.

The terms and conditions, on which the union members will start to vote this week, will also be extended to GE's 11 other unions, the company said.

About 24,000 GE workers in 13 unions are seeking better pension benefits, job security and a cap on rising healthcare costs.

Union leaders had threatened to go on strike a month ago if GE's management did not agree to some of the union demands. The current management-labor agreement, in place for three years, expires at midnight on Sunday. *Reuters*

TOTAL

We can stay the same and still be good...

No pressing need for Opec supply cut, IEA says

KUALA LUMPUR—The International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Monday that at current crude oil prices it did not see a need for supply curbs from Opec in the months ahead, but much depended on the return of Iraqi barrels to the market.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries met in Doha last week and decided to leave its production quota unchanged at 25.4 million barrels per day.

The market is now speculating whether the group will tighten supplies when it meets for another extraordinary meeting on July 31, ahead of an ordinary conference on Sept. 24.

"At prices like this, you would suppose it wouldn't be necessary, but it depends on what's driving the market," William Ramsay, deputy executive director of the IEA told Reuters on the sidelines of the Asia Oil & Gas Conference.

US light crude was 17 cents higher at $30.82 per barrel in Monday's electronic trading after hitting $32.50 last week, it's highest point since mid-March.

"It requires a look at all the elements, the fundamentals, the stock levels, the demand recovery for the heating season, how the driving season is going and economic activity. They'll have to make all those evaluations when they meet in July," Ramsay said.

Post-war looting and sabotage at oil facilities have delayed the resumption of Iraq's oil exports and will keep shipments well below pre-war levels for several months.

The Paris-based IEA, an energy watchdog for the West's industrialized nations, on Friday said it had made an unprecedented 79 million-barrel upward revision to its oil inventory data for the industry stocks in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development at the end of March. *Reuters*

SK saves trade unit

SEOUL—South Korea's largest oil refiner, SK Corp., has decided to bail out its heavily indebted trading affiliate in a deal that would save it from the brink of liquidation, SK Corp. said.

The affiliate, SK Global, has been in danger of collapse since March, when prosecutors discovered accounting irregularities that inflated the company's 2001 profit by 1.5 trillion won ($1.25 billion).

Under the bailout plan announced late Sunday, SK Global would sell SK Corp. an undisclosed stake in exchange for the dismissal of a debt valued at about 850 billion won ($7.08 billion).

The debt-for-equity swap would help SK Global continue operations for now, SK Corp. said, after its board of directors approved the measure. The company will present the plan to its shareholders on Wednesday.

But critics say the case is another example of illegal accounting practices in South Korea, despite the government's repeated vows to reform the country's powerful family-controlled conglomerates.

Foreign investors have often cited such practices and the lack of transparency as major obstacles to investing in the world's 11th largest economy.

Opposed to the bailout were SK Corp.'s foreign investors, led by Sovereign Asset Management, a Monaco-based investment fund, and union leaders. *AP*

My warmest greetings to Fairs and More, Inc., Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI), Association of Semiconductor and Electronics Manufacturing Engineers of the Philippines (ASEMEP) and Texas Instruments (Phils.) Inc. as you stage the **13th ASEMEP National Technical Symposium 2003.**

This endeavor demonstrates that through cooperation and organization, we can propel our local electronics industry to even greater heights. We must harness our potential to become leading semiconductor and electronics exporters and manufacturers. I am hoping that this symposium will serve as a platform for all stakeholders of your industry to join arms in strengthening and improving the manufacturing sector.

I also wish to commend the participation of our local entrepreneurs who play an important role in turning this event into a success. Your resolve and determination to thrive in your respective.niches inspire all our countrymen to become responsible and productive citizens. I am looking forward to your continued efforts in contributing to the growth and progress of the industry and the nation.

Tulong-tulong nating patatagin ang ekonomiya na magsisilbing sandigan ng ating matatag na Republika.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Macapagal–Arroyo

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila
19 June 2003

The 13th ASEMEP National Technical Symposium signifies the intense aspiration of the Association of Semiconductors and Electronics Manufacturing Engineers of the Philippines (ASEMEP) to respond to the industrial needs of our country and advance the technology in the local electronics industry. This implies our awareness of our roles as key players of our nation in becoming globally competitive. This symposium is the arena where knowledge and expertise are shared to strengthen the competence of our technical people and further their professional development. We want to chart a course for the future.

TI (Philippines), Inc. is honored to host this year's symposium. Activities were carefully planned to make this gathering a significant learning event. Amongst 157 technical papers submitted to the Technical Paper Review Committee, 53 passed the rigid screening for presentation. These papers will greatly impact the wealth of knowledge that the electronics and semiconductor industry now holds and nurtures.

Social events are in place for fellowship with our colleagues in the industry. Supplier participation will make further exchange of information about products, materials and technology, paving the way for a more active business trade.

With sincere gratitude, we commend all delegates and sponsors who have participated in this symposium.

As I close this message, let me remind each of you that technology alone is not the sole solution to success in the extremely complex operating environment of electronics. Our ability to adapt rapidly to global transformation in business and the economy is an essential determinant. To be predictive is to be prepared. To be proactive is to advance a mile ahead. Let us prove once more that the Filipino Engineer Makes the Difference in Creating the Future.

Norberto A. Viera
President, SEIPI
Managing Director, Texas Instruments (Phils.), Inc.

The year 2003 is another chance for us to display our dedication in collectively uplifting the semiconductor and electronics industry. The 13th National Technical Symposium 2003 is an example of how people, when buoyed by optimism and armed with inventiveness, can overcome obstacles and emerge on top of the business ladder. It is heartening to see that members of the semiconductors and electronics industry can set aside individual financial goals and boost the group we belong to new heights.

Our theme for the 13th National Technical Symposium, "The Filipino Engineer: Making the Difference in Creating the Future", aims to serve both as an inspiration and a challenge to us so that we may continue to provide quality service, which can eventually make an indelible mark in the future of OUR industry.

As ASEMEP Chairman, I am proud to be involved in an event that show not only our strength and potential as an industry but also our ability to remain resilient in the face of adversity. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the sponsors, exhibitors and attendees of the 2003 symposium. This event will not be as successful as it is without your support and participation. Your presence in this symposium is a clear indication that we welcome a change and we recognize that it should start with us.

To the continued success of ASEMEP and the triumph of the 13th National Technical Symposium 2003!

Cesar B. Moll
ASEMEP Chairman

As the head of the National Technical Symposium Committee, I carry with me the challenge of further leading this activity of ASEMEP to greater heights. With the earnest support of my colleagues in the industry, I know that the feat is not as daunting as it appears to be.

Now is the time for the semiconductors industry to come together and show its vast potential. Now is the time to adapt to change and improvement, and embrace the fast changing demands and technologies of the global market. Above all, now is the time to momentarily forget competition and focus on our collective growth and development.

In behalf of ASEMEP, our sponsors and organizers, we would like to thank all of you for your support and participation in this annual symposium. We are looking forward to forging more strategic alliances, building better business opportunities with the industry and developing our engineers to become examples of competitive advantages for the Philippines.

Let's all Make the Difference in Creating the Future!

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Roger Mendez
Symposium Organizing
Committee Chairman

Attention: Engineers!

Join the 13th ASEMEP
National Technical Symposium
19–20 June 2003, Westin Philippine Plaza

ASEMEP
SYMPOSIUM

The Filipino Engineer: Making the Difference in Creating the Future

Symposium & Exhibit Hours: 8 AM–5.30 PM

The 13th ASEMEP National Technical Symposium is an annual event organized by the **Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI)** and **Association of Semiconductor & Electronics Manufacturing Engineers of the Philippines (ASEMEP)**. The 2003 host company is **Texas Instruments (Phils.) Inc.** We enjoin engineers and professionals to rise to the challenges and share their learnings through active participation in the Technical and Learning Sessions of the Symposium.

Symposium Highlights

» Technical Sessions
Fifty-two (52) technical papers will be presented during the Symposium.

» Learning Sessions
Twelve (12) lectures dealing with new or emerging technologies, systems and processes will be discussed during the Learning Sessions.

» Exhibition of Products & Services
A wide range of products and services will be displayed by more than 20 companies during the Symposium.

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We have changed our corporate name from TotalFinaElf Philippines to **TOTAL (Philippines) Corporation**. We have also upgraded our look. We are essentially the same company, but, with a renewed sense of dynamism to strive even harder to satisfy our customers' changing needs and demands. This re-branding also represents the start of a new future for us as a company and as a vibrant player in the industry.

Except we want to be better.

All these transformations are part of a continuing tradition, one of the many that we've created in our years of doing sound business. It's the tradition of constantly delivering only high-performance products and superior services that our customers have grown accustomed to.

TOTAL

LEARNING STYLES #10

4th National Learning and Training Styles Conference

Theme: "Winning Ideas and Strategies to Enhance Learning"

The Westin Philippine Plaza • June 23 and 24, 2003

FEATURED TOPIC AND SPEAKER SERIES

Session 10
Advocacy in Education: Espousing Worthwhile Causes for Social Change

Engaging strategies to make schools more relevant and develop a social character through advocacy development.

Prof. Ramon "Bong" Osorio
President, International Association of Business Communicators and Campaigns Advocacy

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Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, Philippines

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-MMSD 2003-001

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	P.R. No.	ABC
I 1 lot	July 11, 2003 10:00 AM Pahiyas Rm.	a) Cylinder Liner Assy., Piston Ring Set and 18 various parts for the overhauling of Marinawa DPP Unit No. 6, "GM"	SL-MCD03-0011	2,169,600.00
		b) Multifunction Overcurrent Relay	VR-MES03-0026	1,200,000.00
II 1 lot	July 16, 2003 10:00 AM Pahiyas Rm.	a) Injector Assy, S/P and various Electrical parts for Power Barge 109.560 KW Genset & Pilar 5 Diesel Power Plant "Dale Perkins"	HO-PB903-0007 HO-BI103-0006 HO-SAN03-0004 HO-PLP03-0007	6,406,486.00
III 1 lot	July 18, 2003 10:00 AM Sinulog Rm.	Mechanical Parts of of 3 x 1.8 MW Gensat Pumps, Coolers, and Filters of Jolo DPP; Bolt Cylinder Head & various Electrical S/P for GDK 32 "Daihatsu"	HO-JOL02-0080 HO-PB03-0021	10,967,705.00
IV 1 lot	July 23, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm.	Electrical Parts for Camotes DPP, and Bantayan "MAN"	HO-CAM03-0072 HO-BBD03-0046 HO-BBN03-0049 HO-BBD03-0041	3,005,300.00
V 1 lot	July 25, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm.	Mechanical Parts for Tablas Diesel Power Plant, Camotes and Bantayan "MAN"	SL-TAM03-0068 SL-TAM03-0062, 0063, 0065, 0067 HO-CAM03-0073 HO-BB003, 0042 0053	14,411,747.00
VI 1 lot	July 30, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm.	Operation and Maintenance of NPC Tugboat No. 1 for one year	HO-OVD03-0016	6,500,000.00

Note: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
I	June 27, 2003	10:00 AM	IPP Conference Rm., Ground Flr. Bldg. 2
		11:00 AM	IPP Conference Rm., Ground Flr. Bldg. 2
II	June 27, 2003	2:00 PM	IPP Conference Rm., Ground Flr. Bldg. 2
III	July 01, 2003	10:00 AM	Moriones Function Room
IV	July 01, 2003	2:00 PM	Moriones Function Room
V	July 2, 2003	10:00 PM	Kañao Function Room
VI	July 2, 2003	2:00 PM	Kañao Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357 / 9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP100.00 per schedule starting on **June 16, 2003**. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending biddes. Certificate of Registrations issued by Former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order No. 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - June 17 & 24, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
HNC-03-06-03

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 600 units of Micromotor Engines. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P6,000,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **June 9-18, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph***.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 18, 2003**, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **July 4, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - June 11, 14 & 17, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-98-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2221/2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
HNC 03-05-19

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of 1,454,544 packs of Fortified Instant Noodles. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P5,090,904.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **June 16-25, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at *http://www.deped.gov.ph*.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 25, 2003**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **July 9, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – June 14 & 17, 2003)

Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2003-07A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 16, 2003; 2:00 PM			
A1	1 SET	BATTERY LOAD UNIT	3PSMDS-03-026

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on **July 1, 2003**, 10:00 AM at SLT Bidding Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting **July 18, 2003**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI – June 17, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE of UNSERVICEABLE STEEL TOWERS and SCRAP ACSRs
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: JULY 10, 2003 TIME: 2:00 PM PLACE: NPC SOLARIUM

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items:

SCHEDULE-I	ITEM DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot Unserviceable Steel Towers, used and retrieved from repairs, rehabs and retirements of NPC Transmission Lines. Located at LIGAO S/Y and DARAGA S/Y both in Albay	P 1,320,000.00 / lot

OPEN TO ALL SCRAP METAL BUYERS WHO CAN PRESENT THEIR T.I.N. AND INCOME TAX RETURN

SCHEDULE-II	ITEM DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 166,600 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Mexico Warehouse in Mexico, Pampanga	P 49.08 / kg.
2.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 10,000 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Dasmariñas Substation in Dasmariñas, Cavite	P 49.08 / kg.
3.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 100,000 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Ligao Stockyard in Ligao, Albay	P 49.08 / kg.
4.	One (1) lot Scrap Aluminum Conductors Steel Reinforced Cables 100,000 kgs., more or less, located at NPC-Daraga Stockyard in Daraga, Albay	P 49.08 / kg.

PARTICIPATION IN THIS SCHEDULE-II IS LIMITED ONLY TO PREVIOUSLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS.

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2:00 PM on July 10, 2003 at the Solarium Function Room, Bldg. 1, NPC, Diliman, Q.C. and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For Bid Forms at P 500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at the above address or call telephone no. 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM on July 9, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept / reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) F.B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI – June 16, 17 & 18, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications invites IT companies to bid for the *Integration and Upgrading of the DOTC Network and Various I.T. Facilities and Equipment*, consisting of:
   - 1.1 Upgrade and/or revision of the DOTC Network, plus additional and rearranged data lines and items to the physical infrastructure as specified in the Terms of Reference.
   - 1.2 Purchase of two servers, one would act as a transitional server between the UNIX and Solaris/new Oracle package environments, and the other would act as a Internet Application Server portal, the details of which are specified in the Terms of Reference.
2. Bidders should have been in this business for at least 10 years.
3. Implementation of the *Integration and Upgrading of the DOTC Network and Various I.T. Facilities and Equipment* shall be completed within three (3) months after receipt of the Notice to Proceed.
4. The total amount estimated for this project will be PHP 8.0 million.
5. Instructions for eligibility may be secured from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Chairman at Unit 39, 3/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue Mandaluyong City, from **12 June 2003 to 19 June 2003 up to 5:00 PM**. The following steps will be followed:
   - 5.1 Payment of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) as non-refundable charges at the Cashier's Office, 5/F, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
   - 5.2 Presentation of the official receipt of payment and Letter of Intent.

All required eligibility documents shall be submitted to the:

Office of the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Transportation and Communications
Unit 39, 3/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue
Mandaluyong City

on or before 7 July 2003 until 5:00 PM. Late submissions will not be accepted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated Bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by Republic Act No. 9184 and the pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, accept such bid considered most advantageous to the government or refrain from making any award.

(Sgd.) **RENE E. MAGLANQUE**
Assistant Secretary for Finance
And Comptrollership
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 11 & 17, 2003)

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Mr. Titos Castro
GM of CALL Center

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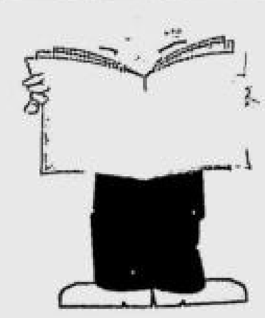

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JOB MARKET

REAL ESTATE

E-mail: pr_real_estate@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Gov't to earn ₱60B from untitled home lots

By Tessa R. Salazar

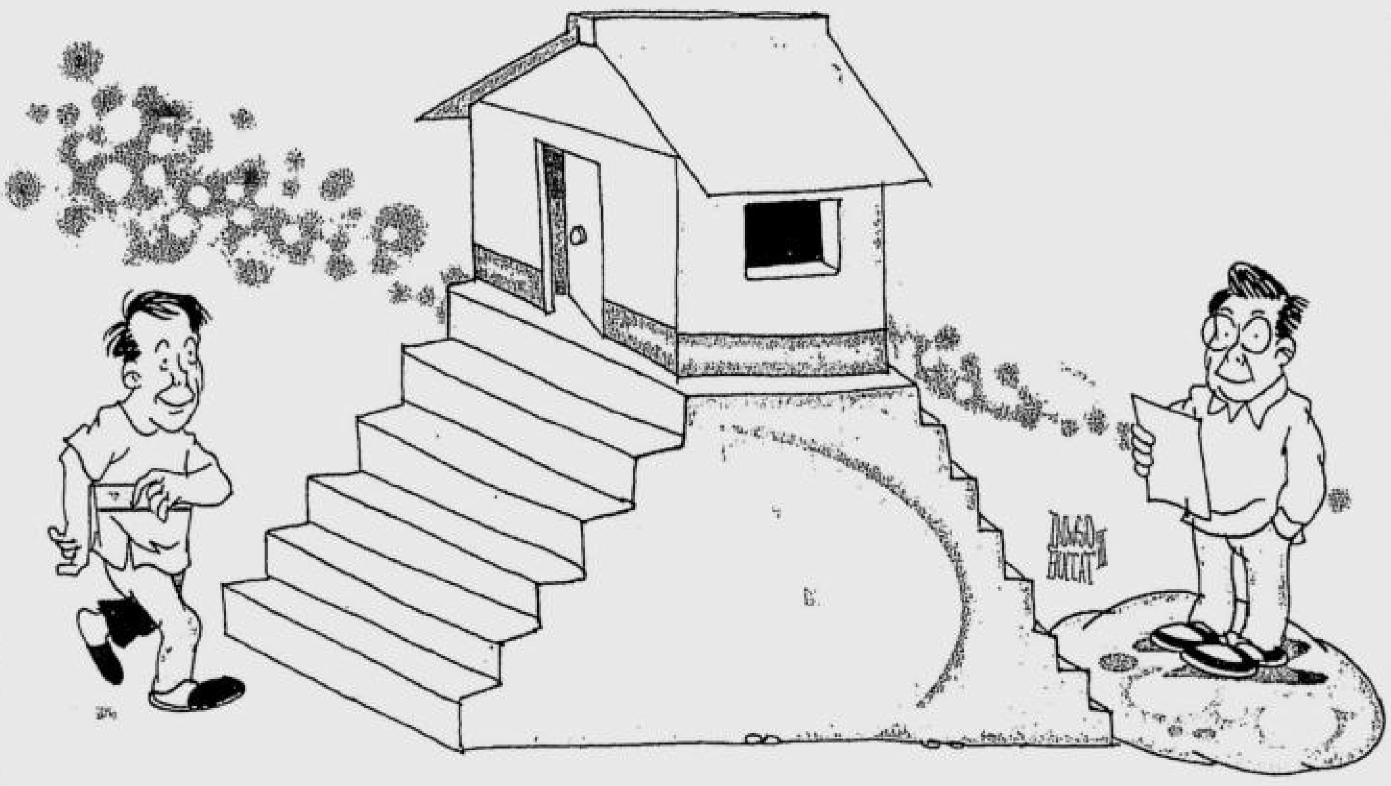


ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT III

Underprivileged residents, particularly landless Filipinos, stand to benefit from "untitled homelots" all over the Philippines.

That is if the Congress proposal to distribute home lots would be approved.

House Bill 5288—approved by the committee on ways and means—proposes that all lands of public domain and covered by a cadastral survey would be sold by the government at P25 to P500 per square meter to qualified beneficiaries for use as home lots. The price would depend on the class of the town or city where the land is situated on.

For gov't funds

The measure proposed stands to generate funds for the national government and at the same time provide the security of tenure to families who have been occupying the particular lots. As expected, the priority beneficiaries of the proposal would be residents in the barangay where disposable lands have been situated, including those who have been occupying the land for at least two years.

Untitled home lots totaling 321,913,744.081 sq. m were registered, according to data submitted by 25 provinces. The figures represent only a quarter of all the 78 provinces of the Philippines.

The office of Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves, who introduced the house bill, has requested all the governors and city mayors to submit data on the number of untitled home lots within their areas of jurisdiction.

Last month, Teves announced the national government stood to earn up to P40 billion in new revenue once the measure proposing aggressive home lot distribution for marginal families became a law. Teves chairs the special committee on globalization and is the senior vice chair of the committee on ways and means.

"We wrote the governors for data because the Land Registration Authority had no existing data. We wrote directly to the governors and, fortunately, there were those who replied," said Julius I. Dumangas of the office of Teves. Dumangas added that even at a rate of just P200 per sq. m, the sale of 321 million sq. m would have generated P60 billion.

Occupants are expected to pay through monthly amortization.

"The bill was already approved by the committee of ways and means. It already has a committee report. We are waiting for the plenary."

For landless residents

Dumangas cited landless residents who had been living at the Payatas area for more than 30 years.

"There are many private claimants in the Payatas area. Long-time residents say that the contested lands are public lands and have produced certificates from the DENR attesting that the Payatas area is unclassified forestlands. This means this cannot be titled," he said.

Forestlands is not yet allowed to be distributed, but the next step would be converting these as alienable or disposable land for these to be covered by the home lots distribution program once the bill becomes a law. This would either be an act of Congress or by presidential proclamation.

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources would draw up the home lots distribution program as proposed in the bill.

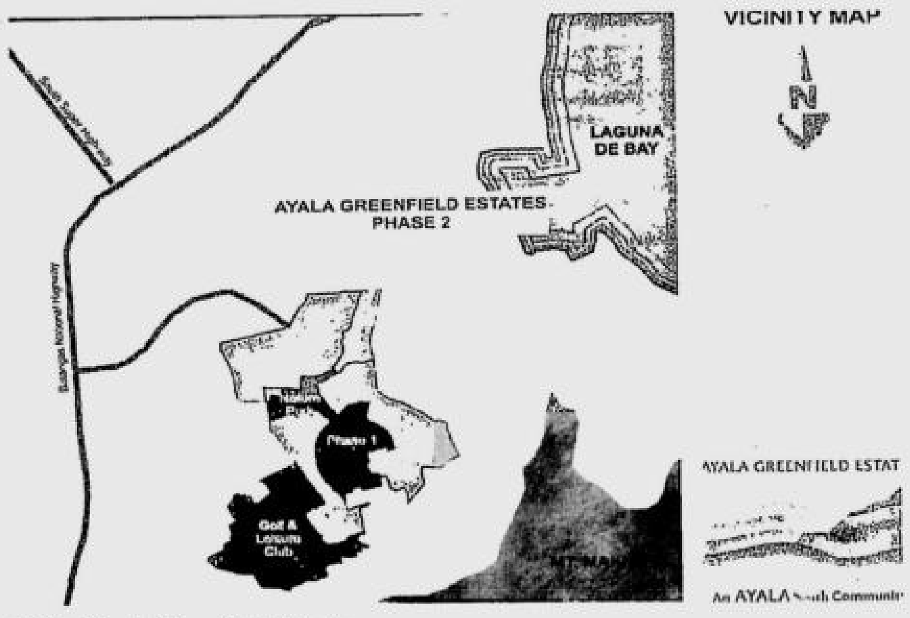
Identification of beneficiaries

With the assistance of the local government units, the HUDCC shall identify qualified beneficiaries, while local assessors and the DENR would come up with a land valuation scheme.

Under the proposal, the LGU gets 10 percent of the gross proceeds from the sale of each home lot.

Beneficiaries would not be allowed to sell or transfer their homelots for 25 years, except in cases of hereditary successions, or if the lots are sold back to the government.

Farm lands, agrarian reform lands, protected areas, forested reserves, ancestral and other lands reserved by special laws would not be covered by the program.



SITE of Ayala Greenfield Estates

Ayala Greenfield Estates now selling phase 2 lots

AYALA Greenfield Estates, the premier real estate project of Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp. in Calamba, Laguna, now opens the second phase of its development. Compared to phase one, smaller lots ranging from 447 to 1,064 square meters are now available to buyers who wish to build their dream home from a vantage point like no other—a breathtaking balcony view of the Laguna de Bay.

Industry experts say that despite lackluster economic conditions, people are turning to secure and proven investments like an estate lot in an Ayala subdivision because its value will surely appreciate over time, as proven by the company's other large-scale fully integrated communities like Ayala Alabang, Ayala Heights and Ayala Westgrove Heights in Silang,Cavite.

Ayala Greenfield Estates will soon have an all-weather championship golf course designed by world-renowned architect Robert Trent Jones II, acknowledged father of environmental golf design.

Golf share given free

Said Ayala Land assistant vice president Jun Bisnar: "This is the first time that a golf share for an 18-hole championship golf course and leisure club is being given free to lot owners of a high-end exclusive community. This makes Ayala Greenfield Estates an authentic 'golf community.' The concept, just like in the US, is if you buy a subdivision lot in Ayala Greenfield Estates, you are automatically entitled to one golf share as long as you pay the membership activation fee. You don't have to pay millions for the golf proprietary share, you just activate the share. With most of our competitors, you have to buy a separate golf share."

Golf course construction went full blast last month and the first nine holes is expected for completion by summer next year.

For leisure needs

Right now, lot owners can already enjoy the multiple amenities and facilities found at the 15-hectare Nature Park: a grand village clubhouse, designed by Locsin V Locsin Partners, which has a game room, a gym with massage and steam rooms and a coffee shop. And just right outside the village clubhouse are the infinity pool, the multipurpose rink, toddler's play area and a fishing lagoon. All designed to meet your family's leisure needs.

Construction of the open basketball and tennis courts are ongoing while the covered basketball courts, tennis courts and badminton courts will also be started within the year.

A magnificent mix of nature's grandeur and first-class recreational facilities, Ayala Greenfield Estates is the best place to build your perfect getaway home.

Return of investors' confidence highlights developers' conference

By Charles E. Buban

MACAPAGAL

IS the country a step closer to the much-awaited return of investors' confidence in the present and future direction of the housing sector?

Jesus Atencio, president of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, surely believes so.

"The general industry statistics show a 35 percent increase in all aspects of housing activity. The issuance of licenses, government-funded end-user financing and the contract to sell developer's financing by private banks have all registered that much increase in business activity."

His optimism will surely be shared by other developers in today's opening of the two-day SHDA National Developers Convention at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City.

GMA to address confab

The convention, in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, has invited President Macapagal-Arroyo who will deliver her keynote speech on the second day.

"This is a very significant event since the convention has also gathered bankers, suppliers and government officials involved in the housing industry and some of them will lead the discussions and lectures," says Atencio.

The convention will cover a wide range of topics that includes macro-level issues such as global trends and urban revitalization as well as specific housing concerns including developmental and end-user finance, fast-tracking housing program through legislation, marketing for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), recent rulings on real estate taxation issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the implementation of the special purpose asset vehicle law, housing bonds and other specialized topics for housing sector practitioners.

Event's highlight

"Perhaps, the highlight of this annual event, apart from the keynote address coming from President Macapagal on the second day of the convention (June 18), is the open forum to be led by Housing Secretary Michael Defensor—a 'no-holds barred'-sort of discussion between developers and heads of various key shelter agencies," reveals Marilu Alferez, who chairs the convention.

SHDA chair Teofisto Guingona III says this year's theme is about "Moving Beyond, Going Global."

"This is a follow-through of the reforms that were instituted last year, and how developers can take maximum advantage of the current bullishness that the sector is experiencing," Guingona explains.

Guingona says this is the reason more properties are being launched nowadays as developers are now emboldened to increase their investments in housing—a factor that will pave the way for more housing production in the months ahead.

Striking the perfect balance at West Parc

IN LIFE, balance is one of the things most people strive for. Everyone dreams of achieving harmony in all aspects of life—family, career, relationships, spirituality—but it remains a daunting task.

This need for balance is what Filinvest had in mind when it conceptualized West Parc, the company's newest mid-income residential condominium project. To be situated at the Westgate complex of Filinvest Corporate City, West Parc will be composed of seven towers on an expansive 1.15-hectare property.

Named after popular tree species, the Alder, Birch and Cedar buildings will comprise the first phase of development. Setting the pace is the 15-story Alder Building, which will offer a total of 112 units divided into studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units.

West Parc lets you live at your own pace in an environment that is dynamic yet relaxing. It surrounds you with abundant greens and fresh air while putting you in close proximity to the most exciting developments in the area.

West Parc gives you all the conveniences of high-rise living along with amenities like an adult lap pool, children's pool, cabana with barbecue pits, children's playground and landscaped gardens.

Reasonably priced units and flexible payment terms make it easy for you to acquire a West Parc home. Starting as low as P1.7 million for studio units to only P5.4 million for a 3-bedroom unit, you not only get your ideal home but a surefire investment that's sure to appreciate as Filinvest Corporate City unveils more important developments in the near future.

To give prospective buyers a feel of the lifestyle West Parc promises, a model unit of the project is now open for viewing at the 3rd level of Festival Supermall in Alabang. Onsite model units featuring studio and two-bedroom units are scheduled to open in July.

With this perfect mix of design, location, facilities, amenities and pricing, West Parc gives you more opportunities to make the most of each day and valuable time to focus on the really important things in life.

New firm uses multiple approach to solving pest problem

By Charles E. Buban

EXTERMINATING and controlling invasive pests (mainly termites, rats and roaches) are responsibilities that every homeowner must not take for granted.

The price for failure can run into thousands of pesos and in some cases, priceless possessions like antique cabinets, books and manuscripts can be lost forever.

Thanks to years of research in pest control and the introduction of safe and effective technology, homeowners now have a variety of choices on how to deal with their own respective pest problem.

Here in the Philippines, one company is fast emerging as a leader in offering all these techniques. Pest-Away Exterminating Supply & Services provides products from liquid chemicals that poison colonies to the more high-tech elimination systems which destroy pests the smart way.

Latest technology

"We aim to change this industry with the use of the latest technology and tools plus relevant information," says Doy David, the company president.

Pest-Away technicians are specially trained and certified by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority to provide a wide variety of commercial pest control solutions.

After each treatment, these technician will provide inputs on housekeeping needs as well as a detailed account of each treatment employed.

The extensive range of Pest-Away service packages includes Pest-A-Fog—thermal fogging or ultra-low volume/misting application to control flying insects such as mosquitoes, flies and roaches; and Perimeter Defense System—residual or nonresidual spraying around the house; Pest-A-Batemen—mosquito larvae control.

Other service packages Pest-Away has are Pest Entrapment—bait laying or trapping for rodents; Pest-Away Injection System—application of treatment inside the cracks and crevices; and Insect Growth Regulators—help control growth and development during immature stages of a pest's life cycle.

Other services can be browsed at their website pest-away@pacific.net.ph.

Before application

Even before the actual application, Pest-Away personnel will draw plans on how to execute the method.

The home or business establishment will be thoroughly inspected and only after such can a customized treatment be employed.

Pest-Away offers treatments for both pre and postconstruction of structures. Its Preconstruction Termite Control includes one-time application of termiticide solution on footings, foundations, floorings and outside perimeter walls using power sprayer to create a barrier between the property and the termites to prevent them from entering.

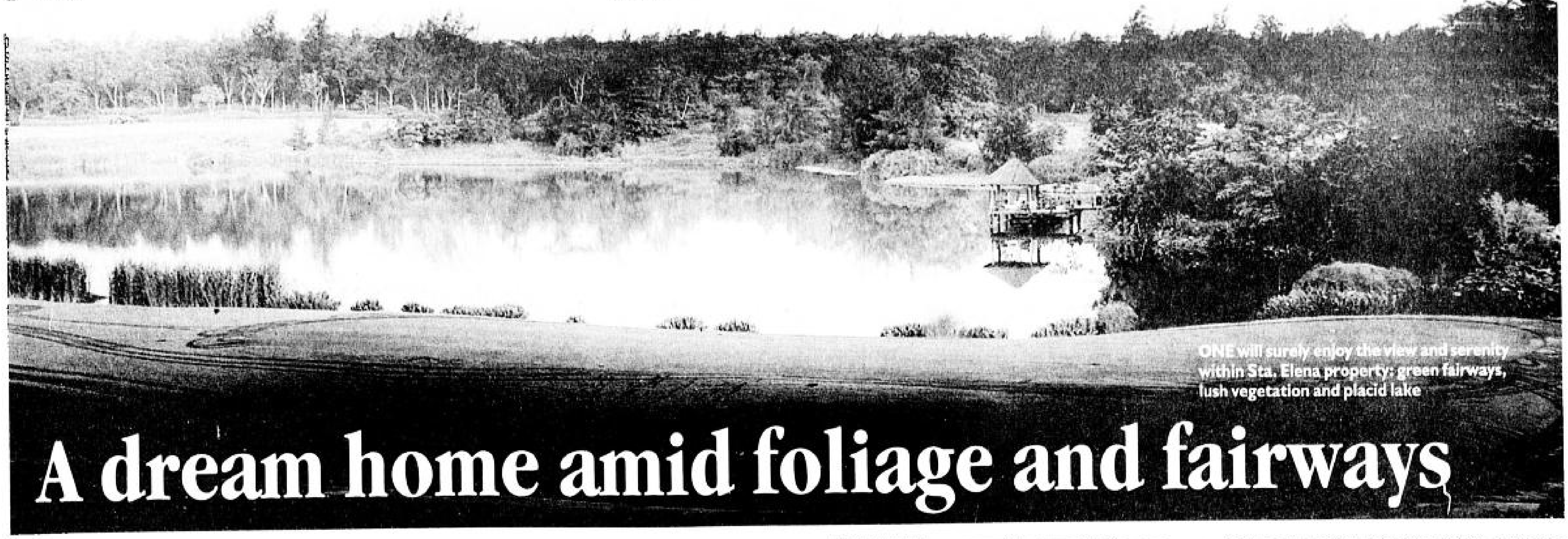
The Postconstruction Termite Control includes a baiting program using the Sentricon Colony Elimination System.

Pest-Away also offers after-sales service to make sure that the treatment is working effectively and addresses queries that its customers may have.

Environmental commitment

"Another thing that also sets Pest-Away apart is our commitment to protect the environment. We also use nonpesticide techniques to control pests such as mechanical traps. We also use less amount of chemicals since we place chemicals only where they are needed," explained David.

Pest-Away is supplied by Dow AgroSciences, an industry leader in pest control and training based in the US. Another affiliate company and supplier is ALOG & Co. Inc. It also has various modes of industry-approved services and products.



ONE will surely enjoy the view and serenity within Sta. Elena property: green fairways, lush vegetation and placid lake

A dream home amid foliage and fairways

By Charles E. Buban

JUST a 45-minute drive from Makati City will lead one to Sta. Elena Village, a 260-hectare residential resort community in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Within this community that boasts one of the world's best golf courses, the 27-hole Sta. Elena Golf Course, and an Audubon-certified nature sanctuary of lush forests and rich flora and fauna will rise a premium residential development project of Sta. Elena Properties Inc. (Sepi), the whole property's developer.

To be known as Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre, it will provide Filipino families with their dream homes amid the forests and fairways.

This 11-hectare village will be located on the west fringe of the Sierra Madre fairways of the golf course.

RESIDENTS of Village Sierra Madre can also enjoy the amenities offered at the property's clubhouse.

THERE'S always a corner at Sta. Elena property where its residents—and visitors—can take refuge and enjoy the view.

Fulfilling dreams

"With Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre, we can fulfill every Filipino family's dream of living in a stunningly beautiful place that nurtures family life and that every family would love to call home," announced Bienvenido Tantoco Jr., executive vice president and general manager of Sepi.

Tantoco said the residential community employs the best design principles known as New Urbanism concept that promises to improve the lifestyle of families.

The new concept will offer modern-day Filipino families better security, more elegant front of homes, and a more community-friendly environment.

Palafox & Associates principal founder and managing partner Felino Palafox Jr., the project's master planner, said with this new concept, Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre will be developed into a community where people can live, work and play.

"Sta. Elena has been designed so that everything is interconnected, both physically and visually, from the windows to the front of homes, from the sidewalks to the main roads, from the garage to the back alleys, from the house to the backyard of forests and fairways," Palafox explained.

He also added that using one's vehicle will only be a third choice as one can walk or bike when meeting friends in the neighborhood or when one has to go to the grocery store.

Complete community

When fully developed, the whole Sta. Elena property would have offices, leisure and recreation centers, restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, churches, and clinics, according to Palafox.

A typical lot in Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre has a front access and a back access. With both a front/main road and a back alley/service road, homeowners will enjoy the following benefits:

- Homeowners can design beautiful front façade without having to worry about garages and other service facilities that will be designated in the back alley.
- More privacy as no single house will have a neighbor on either its front or back. This allows for more "breathing room," making a 400-sq.-m lot in Sta. Elena Village seem bigger than 400-sq.-m lots in other villages.
- Main roads become extensions of parks and open spaces for leisure activity.
- Main roads are for the exclusive use of residents and their guests, while service-related matters are confined in back alleys (i.e. garbage collection, car-washing, deliveries, utility repairs and maintenance).

Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre is the second phase of residential development in Sta. Elena Village.

It will offer 150 lots with sizes ranging from 300 to 500 square meters. Lot prices will range from P2.6 million to P3.8 million (P7,500 per sq. m) while estimated price range for the house-and-lot packages is from P6 million to P9 million.

Construction will start this year, and the village will be ready to take in residents in 2005, informed Tantoco.

Quality housing for AFP servicemen

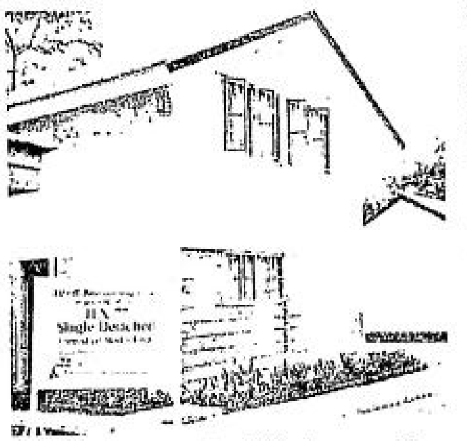
NOW, soldiers can look forward to living well in a superior-quality home at approximately half the cost.

A pact inked by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and noted real estate company Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. will provide for the development of very affordable house-and-lot packages at Camp Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite, for the country's brave men and women in uniform. The Cavite project is the first of 14 off-base communities that will eventually earmark a total of 592 hectares for the AFP housing program.

This undertaking is in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's vision of homes for more Filipinos. Shortly after assuming office, President Macapagal identified housing as one of her administration's priorities. She then asked the members of the housing industry community to explore and identify ways to reinvigorate the sector.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was instrumental in the creation of the AFP's off-base housing program. He envisioned the project while he was chief of staff two years ago to "provide decent and affordable housing to homeless military personnel." Under the scheme, the government will provide the land to be worked on by a private developer.

This means that soldiers will only pay for the construction of the houses and the community's roads, drainage and waterworks. Making LPHI's affordable packages even more easy are financing schemes offered by Pag-Ibig.



ONE of the very affordable house-and-lot packages

"This is a great example of how cooperation between the government, Pag-Ibig and a responsible developer can make the good life attainable to more people," said LPHI president Manuel Colayco Jr.

The LPHI also donated four model units of the products to be offered to AFP personnel. The model houses available for viewing are at Camp Aguinaldo.

The selection of the LPHI to build the pioneering community underscores the excellent reputation of the real estate company, which has already sold more than 6,000 homes.

"We were chosen not just for cost efficiency but the quality of our work. And we guarantee that the Camp Riego de Dios development will be comparable to LPHI's other projects [illegible] he commercial market," Colayco continued.

That means the LPHI will take care of every little detail so that residents need not have to worry.

The master plan for the Camp Riego de Dios community adopts key development concepts such as safety considerations (no flooding, comprehensive security); convenience (accessibility to subdivision features and amenities); and pedestrian-friendly design.

Other key development concepts are adequate utilities (continuous water supply, complete electrical, drainage and sewage facilities); the promotion of social interaction (introduction of central activity area or plaza-type concept); complete village and public amenities; and livelihood or economic viability (availability of chophouse units, cooperative farm area and commercial areas).

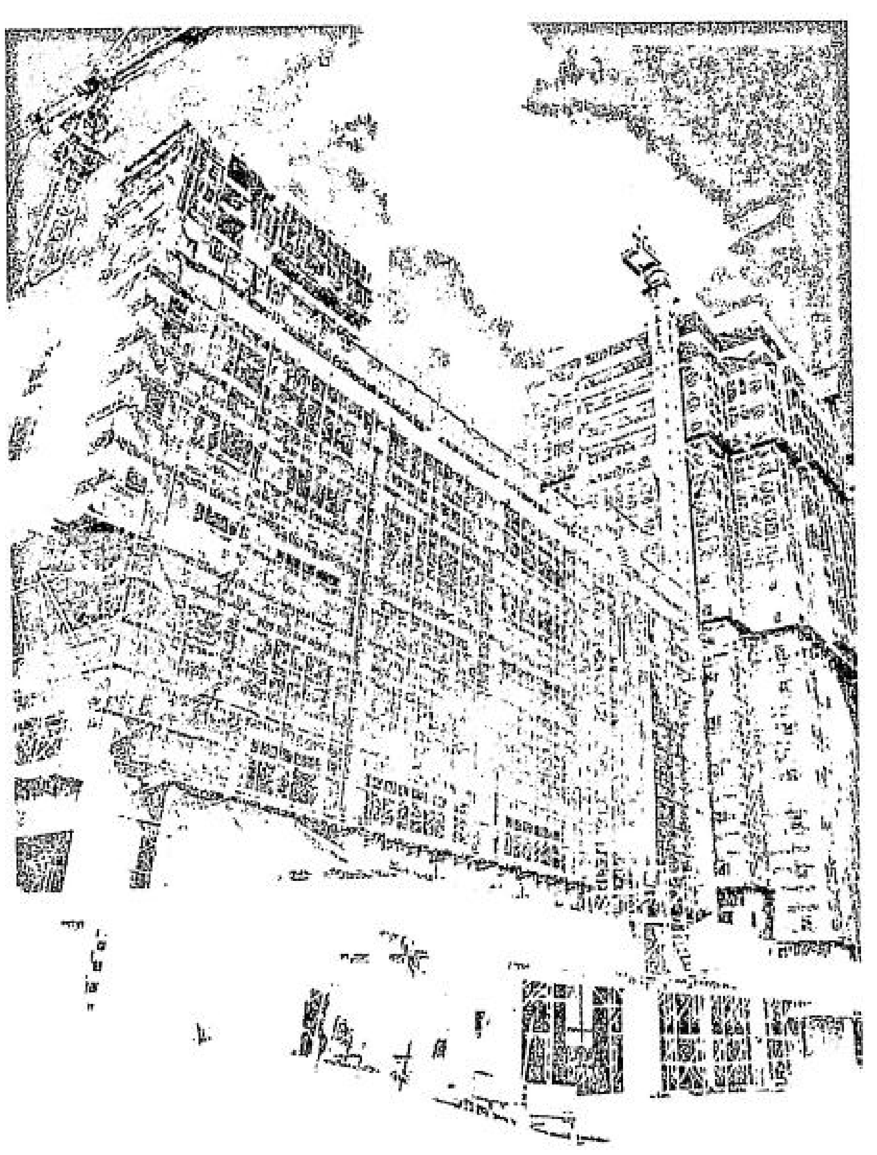
With packages priced from P281,000 to P676,000 (with lot area ranging from 50 to 120 square meters, and house floor area ranging from 42 to 80 square meters), more of our country's servicemen can look forward to raising their family in a safe and comfortable environment.

For love of family, farming at La Finca

ESCAPE from the stresses of urban living and spend an idyllic weekend with your family at La Finca and Country Resort in Lipa City, Batangas on June 21.

A seminar will be conducted on how families can make money by farming on a 750-square-meter lot while your kids are entertained by a clown show, parlor games and pony rides. Guests will get a sampling of the bucolic life at La Finca as they will be given free rattan baskets and allowed to harvest and buy fresh produce from the Israeli-made greenhouses.

If you dream of owning a farm estate at great value, come and visit La Finca on June 21. La Finca is located right in front of gate 2 of Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club.



MORE THAN A NEW BUILDING
The new Medical City's compound in Ortigas, Pasig, envisions raising new levels of consciousness in healthcare delivery in the Philippines.

Firm issues pest control checklist

THE DAYS of the colonial mentality are over. Today, there are well-trained and licensed pest control professionals who, using tested Filipino technologies, could make sure your home and your property are protected against voracious termites.

Here are some guidelines in choosing the right pest control company:

- **Understand the problem.** Inspect your property so you have an idea of the extent of the damage when you report it to the pest control technician. Do not leave the problem to him; learn as much as you can about termites.
- **Make a background check.** Ask around for recommendations but don't stop there because not all referrals end happily. Be wary of imported pesticides, even if these are registered with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority. Many FPA-registered imported pesticides have been proven to be harmful to humans (mostly cancer-causing) and to the environment. Many of these imported pesticides are banned in their countries of origin and are just being dumped in the Philippines.
- **Set expectations.** Talk it out with your prospective pest control professional. Tell the technician what you expect so he could tell you straight out whether he can meet your requirements. When he explains the process, be attentive and ask questions. Don't get carried away by foreign brands and names.
- **Ask about termite products.** Make sure the termiticide the pest control guys will use is environment-friendly, safe on humans and pets, provides long-lasting protection and does not emit nasty odors that can disrupt home and business operations.
- **Regard them as partners.** Half the job of eliminating household pests is your responsibility—proper hygiene and sanitation help. drive pesky pests away. Ask if your technician is backed up by reliable termiticide suppliers. Pest control professionals are service providers and the quality and the effectivity of their service are limited by the quality, efficacy and reliability of the products they use.

Mapecon Philippines Inc., No. 1 in termite control and as a pest-control company in the Philippines since 1961, was founded by the multiawarded Filipino inventor and entomologist, Gonzalo O. Catan Jr. Its system is built around the natural behavior of termites so it can kill subterranean termites through the tested trophallaxis method.

The Mapecon technology is proven effective, safe, environment-friendly, odorless, nondisruptive and tested for more than four decades, without any poisoning-accident record. Find out more about Mapecon, call 525-0434 or visit http//www.mapecon.com.

JOINT-VENTURE AGREEMENT
Active Realty & Development Corp. recently signed a joint-venture agreement with the United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (Cocolife) to develop a 10-hectare property in Dasmariñas, Cavite, into a first-class residential subdivision, which will form part of Active's already existing Town & Country Dasmariñas. The agreement was reached by architect Maria Cristina V. Turalba, Active vice chair; architect Antonio Turalba Sr., Active chair and CEO; lawyer Alfredo Tumacder Jr., Cocolife president, and Cocolife first vice president Artemio A. Tanchoco Jr.

Hiring a designer and selecting a contractor for your project

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

WHEN a property owner decides to build a construction project, one thing that should be considered is the type of approach to follow in building a team that will be responsible for its design, management and construction.

A construction project can be organized using a number of strategies. The three most common types of such organization are the traditional method that a designer is hired and then a contractor is asked to build, design-build method, and construction management methods. Each type has its advantages and disadvantages and the owner's choice will depend on the type of project as well as his or her priorities.

Traditional method

The traditional method, as the name implies has been the most popular and commonly used delivery method. This approach centers on the owner as the coordinator of the different trades working for the project. The following is the process of hiring a designer and then choosing a contractor:

Step 1—The owner, fully aware of the needs of the project, discusses with the designer all of the requirements of the project. The owner hires a designer for a fixed fee whose task is to produce a complete and detailed design of the project, as well as all the necessary contract documents. The fee for the design professional is usually taken as a percentage of the total construction cost but can also be negotiated.

Step 2—The designer then is responsible for coming up with a design that would satisfy the needs of the owner. The designer then submits construction specifications, detailed plans and cost estimates to the owner.

Step 3—The owner then conducts a bid to a number of contractors to build the project or may opt to directly negotiate and hire the services of a specific contractor of choice. Should the owner decide to bid out the project, he or she may invite a few contractors in order to have a wide choice as to who will be able to satisfy her or his needs. The track record, experience and overall capability of the contractor are very important.

Step 4—The chosen contractor carries out the construction based on the contract documents and design specifications and is responsible for the on-time and on-budget delivery of the project. The chosen general contractor may hire subcontractors for specialized work but will still be responsible for their work.

Coordinating the work

The owner may also hire an architect or engineer during construction to coordinate with the contractor. The job of the architect or engineer is to act for the owner and ensure the quality of the work delivered.

Unlike the contract between the owner and the contractor, where there is a statement to deliver the product, the relationship between the architect/engineer and the owner follows certain agreements for the former to act in the latter's behalf.

Advantages

The traditional method of delivery, as its name suggests, has been practiced for many years now and is the best known among the modes of delivery. This works to its advantage such that it is well understood and the project can proceed without too many problems.

This method is also advantageous because the owner can choose the best price for his project through competitive bidding. It is however very important that a detailed design is done since the designer and the builder are not the same. All of the specifications and dimensions should be clearly stated in the design.

Another advantage to the owner is that the contract to the builder states the fixed cost of the project. The contractor shoulders the risk of inflation and inefficiencies as well as the service of its subcontractors. If the accuracy and completeness of the contract documents provided by the designer are at an acceptable level, then the owner will not have to worry about the delivery of his project. The owner is removed from the hassle of the construction process in this mode of delivery.

Disadvantages

One major disadvantage of this type of delivery is the lack of interaction between the designer and the builder. The design of the project is completed before it is turned over to the builder. Some designers do not have adequate experience in construction so there is a tendency to design something that cannot be built at a reasonable cost. This way, the builder will not have the option of discussing the constructibility of the project with the designer. Efficiency and economy in terms of the design is reduced because of lack of this option. Many owners hire infrastructure consultants with both design and construction experience during the design phase of the project to reduce these effects.

The builder will only base his or her work entirely on the plans provided by the designer. Very little interaction between the two exists and differences in their interpretation on the requirements of the owner pose another source of problem.

The duration of the entire project from design to construction is also sacrificed in the traditional approach. Processes cannot be overlapped because of its nature. Procurement of builders as well as materials cannot proceed without the output of the designer, which will be used in the bidding. The construction of the project will have to wait until all the necessary documents have been prepared. Longer duration means additional costs in labor and rental, great uncertainty in the project and the risk of inflation.

Final advice

As the owner of a construction project, you have the option of choosing a designer and then bidding out the project in order to get the best price. Make sure that you understand the benefits as well as the risks in this kind of arrangement.

Be aware though that there are other methods on how to execute your construction project. To have a project that will go on schedule at the quality and costs that you would want, it is best that you ask the services of an engineering professional of your choice.

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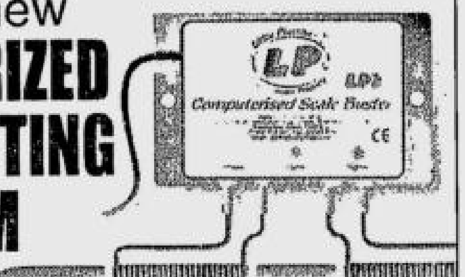

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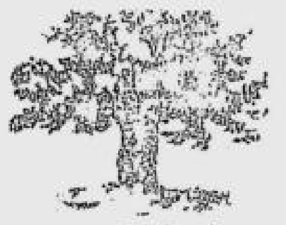
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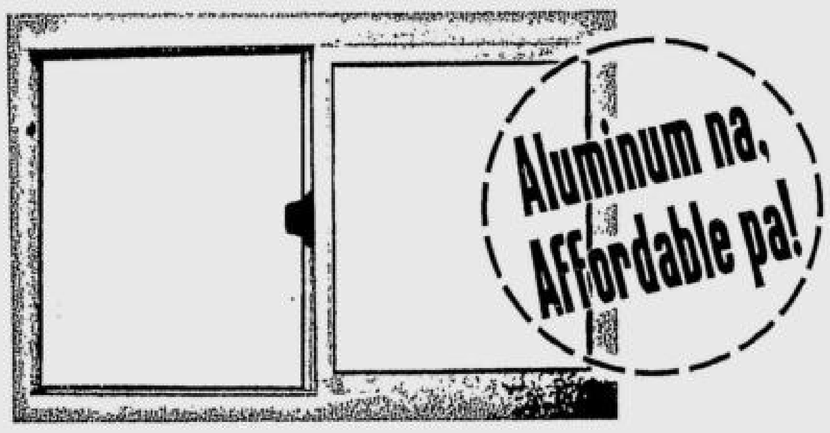
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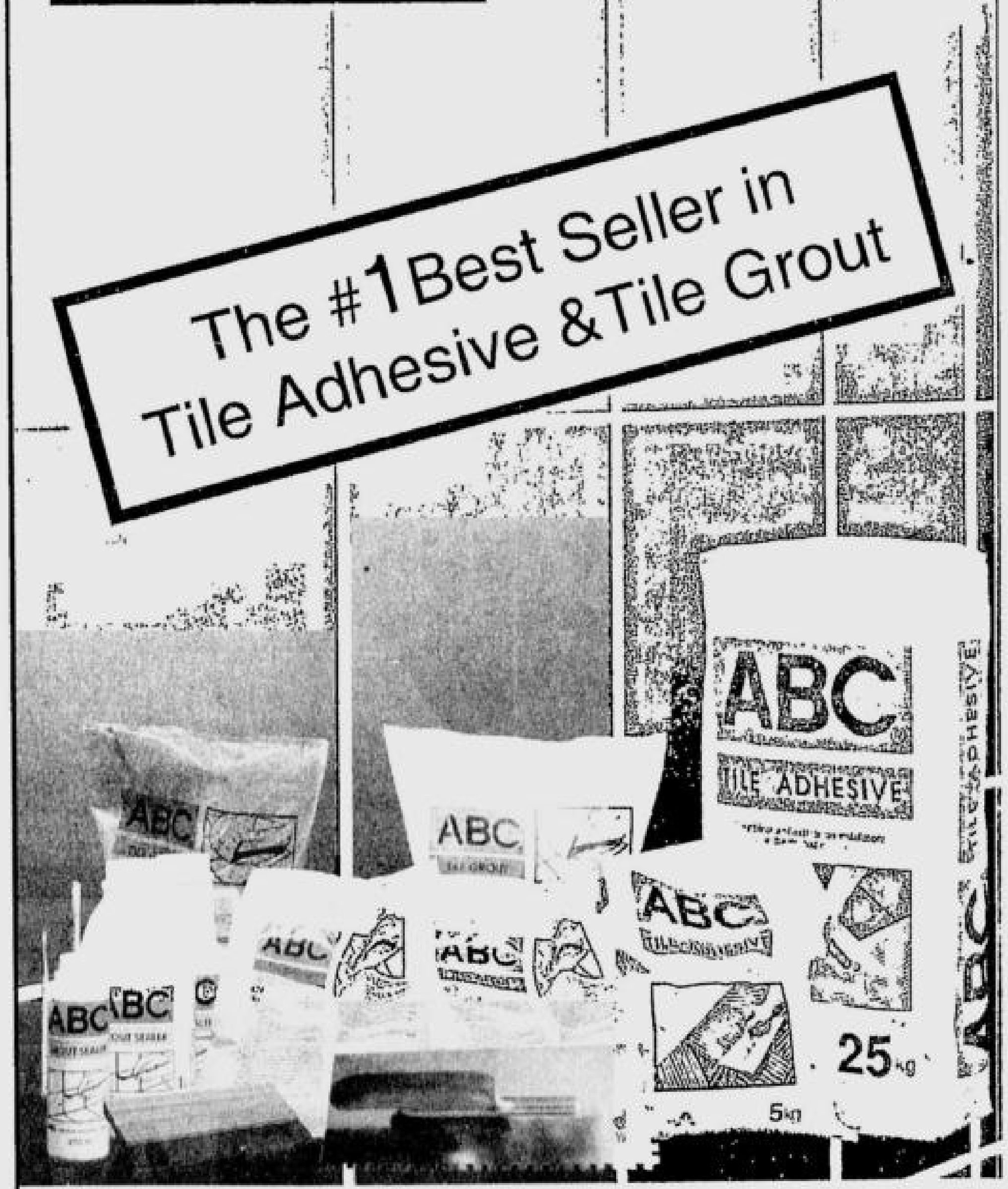

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President Arroyo to attend SHDA-HUDCC National Developers Convention

> Our theme of 'Moving Beyond, Going Global', is a follow-through of the reforms that were instituted last year

IN HER first formal appearance this year before leaders of the real estate and housing industry, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will attend the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) National Developers Convention on June 18, at 10 a.m. at the Grand Ballroom of the Shangrila Hotel Makati in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)

Expected to attend the convention to receive the President's keynote address are some 250 SHDA members and non-members as well, that comprise the Philippines' leading real estate practitioners involved in the development of subdivisions and housing projects all over the country. Also expected to be present at the two-day convention that starts on June 17 are bankers, suppliers and government officials headed by HUDCC Chair and Secretary Michael T. Defensor.

Said SHDA Chairman Teofisto L. Guingona III, "Our theme of 'Moving Beyond, Going Global'", is a follow-through of the reforms that were instituted last year, and how developers can take maximum advantage of the current bullishness that the sector is experiencing." Guingona III said that developers are now emboldened to increase their investments in housing, paving the way for more housing production in the months to come.

Return of Developer's Confidence.

SHDA National President Jesus B. Atencio pointed out that, "If there is anything that SHDA wishes to highlight as the hallmark of the Arroyo Administration's Housing Program; it is the "return of developer's confidence" in the present state and future of the housing sector of this country." He said that general industry statistics show a 35-percent increase in all aspects of housing activity, from the issuance of licenses, government-funded end-user financing, CTS developer's financing by private banks "have all registered that much increase in business activity." He added developers would be interested in attending the convention to be updated with the latest trends and policies in housing, and also so that they won't be left behind by the competition.

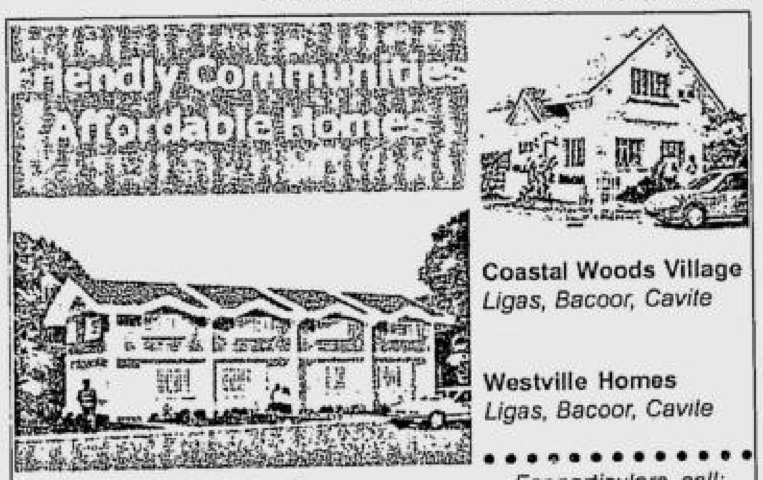
Convention Topics.

According to Malu Alferez, convention chair, the convention will cover a wide range of topics that include discussions of macro-issues: global trends, urban revitalization; and specific housing concerns such as developmental and end-user finance, fast-tracking housing program through legislation, OFW marketing, recent BIR rulings on real estate taxation (i.e. VAT), implementation of the SPAV law, housing bonds, and other special topics of interest to all practitioners in the housing sector. A much-awaited portion of the convention is the open forum with Defensor on the second day, which will feature a "no-holds barred" dialogue between developers and heads of the Key Shelter Agencies.

Top Officials of the Housing Sector.

Aside from the President's keynote address on the second day of the SHDA affair, the top officials of the key shelter agencies and other allied government departments, as well as leading experts from the private sector, are coming to the SHDA affair to speak on their respective topics. Alferez noted that the government side, headed by Defensor, with HUDCC Secretary General De Castro, HDMF President Quimbo, SSS President De La Paz, GSIS President Garcia, HLURB Commissioner Dagnalan, HGC President Bongolan, DOLE USec. Imson, and Rep. Nograles, Chairman of House Committee on Housing, have confirmed their attendance. Also invited and expected to attend are Secretaries, Neri (Neda), Camacho (Finance), Pagdanganan (Agrarian Reform), Lorenzo (Agriculture), Gozun (Natural Resources), Lina (Local Government).

Multi-awarded and noted motivational speaker, writer and businessman Francis Kong; noted international architect Palafox; and the Asia Pacific coordinator for the United Nations Urban Management Program, Dr. Von Einsediel have also confirmed their attendance to speak in the convention.



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SHDA - HUDCC NATIONAL DEVELOPERS CONVETIONS
June 17 and 18, Shangri-La Makati

PROGRAM

DAY 1 - June 17, 2003
8:00 - 8:30 Registration

PART I: Opening Ceremonies

8:30 - 8:45 Ribbon Cutting -
SHDA Exhibit CONG. CORAZON MALANYAON
Shangri-La Gallery Area MS. JULIE ROSE DEFENSOR
8:45 - 8:50 Parade of Colors SHDA National
SHDA-Quezon Chapter
SHDA-Cebu Chapter
SHDA-Negros Chapter
SHDA-Southern Mindanao Chapter
SHDA-Northern Mindanao Chapter
SHDA-Western Mindanao Chapter
8:50 - 9:00 National Anthem
Invocation ROBINSONS HOMES, INC.
9:00 - 9:10 Call to Order & Welcome Remarks
ATTY. TEOFISTO L. GUINGONA III
Chairman of the Board, SHDA
9:10 - 9:25 Message HON. AMADO BAGATSING
Vice-Chairman, Housing and Urban
Development Coordinating Council
9:25 - 9:45 President's Report MR. JESUS B. ATENCIO
National President, SHDA
9:45 - 10:00 Convention Overview MS. MARILU M. ALFEREZ
First Vice-President, SHDA Chairperson, Convention Committee
DAY 1 - June 17, 2003
SESSION en BANC / PLENARY PAPERS (Rizal Ballroom)

PART II: Future of Housing in the Global and National Context

DAY 1 - June 17, 2003
SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

Part III: Institutionalizing Programs and Structures in the Philippine Real Estate Industry

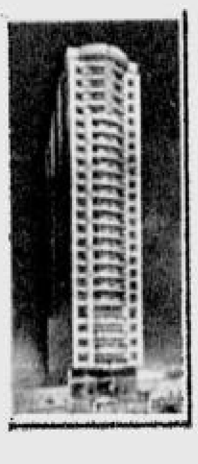
PART IV: The Other Side of SHDA

7:00 - 12:00 Midnight Talents Nite Gallore Rizal C Ballroom
Chapter presentations, . Shangri-La Hotel
Entertainment, Dancing, Singing, etc.
Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Roy Calleja
DAY 2 - June 18, 2003

PART V: Other Concerns Affecting the Housing Industry

SESSION en BANC (Rizal Ballroom)

PART VI: Closing Ceremonies



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Developers' confidence is back--Atencio

May 30, 2003
HER EXCELLENCY
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Dear President Arroyo:

Over the past several months, your SHDA developers have been working very hard to meet our pledge to you to produce at least 200,000 units by 2004. We are greatly encouraged indeed by your continued support to our industry as we strive to help you build a STRONG REPUBLIC through the provision of decent and affordable mass housing for our fellow Filipinos and their families now and in the future.

If Your Excellency will recall, we initiated SHDA Pledge 200,000 late last year as our way of expressing our thanks for your Administration's efforts in pushing for the necessary reforms to get our sector moving. With landmark reforms such as lower interest rates for Pag-Ibig Fund housing loans and EO 45, Madame President, you have not failed us.

Reviewing SHDA Pledge 200,000

Our response was to bring our membership together and collate individual developer's commitments of housing production totaling 237,076 new housing units to be delivered from 2002 to 2004.

This pledge represents 72 developers or 36 percent of the SHDA membership, developing 266 housing projects nationwide across the entire spectrum of socialized, low-cost, economic and open market housing. They represent real projects that were either started in 2001, ongoing in 2002, or are programmed to begin this year or in 2004.

What Our Monitoring Indicates

Madame President, because of time constraints, we have so far received production reports on housing starts that represent only 35 percent or 27 of the original 76 developers which have released figures comprising 89 of the 255 housing projects we have been requested by HUDCC to monitor under SHDA Pledge 200,000. It is against this context that we wish to present our production figures of housing starts for SHDA Pledge 200,000.

The details of this summary are attached for your reference, together with this presentation. SHDA shall continue to monitor and receive more production reports and we are hoping the HUDCC, with the vast resources of the shelter agencies under its wing, help us monitor developer's production commitments more thoroughly and consistently.

Even though our figures today are partial and incomplete, we are happy to note that these reports, even coming from a small portion of our membership, have already exceeded the reported take-out levels of government financing institutions, such as Pag-Ibig Fund, for the same period. We are still confident that, with the remaining time available up to 2004, we can still meet our commitment to you for the 200,000 units.

.DAR - SHDA Cooperation

A noteworthy development in our advocacy for faster processing and release of permits and licenses is the renewed relationship that we have started with the Department of Agrarian Reform. Immediately after our first meeting with Sec. Pagdanganan, we re-convened the DAR-SHDA Task Force to monitor the movement of 75 particular cases of conversion and exemption applications. This has resulted in the release of 29 applications as of yesterday, which translates into 22,364 housing units that can be available in the market within the rest of the year. Given that several applications have compliance issues, the performance level of DAR's releases is at a respectable 43 percent.

We have also held the first DAR-SHDA Developer's Workshop last April 25, 2003, attended by 92 developers, where policy gaps were identified, and are now the subject of ongoing discussions with the DAR-SHDA Task Force. We are delighted that DAR has committed to fast-track applications, reducing further the present 90-day processing time to 70 days, thereby increasing the rate of release from 10 approvals a week.

Return of Developer's Confidence

But more than figures, Madame President, if there is anything that SHDA wishes to highlight as the hallmark of your Administration's Housing Program; it is the "Return of Developer's Confidence" in the present state and future of the housing sector of this country. This point cannot be over-emphasized. As a result of your administration's reforms in housing finance and processing of permits, the entire SHDA membership has actually become bullish about our industry, even in the short-term. Let me cite to you a few indications:

1. A Surge in New Projects. - Based on our own monitoring statistics, we can estimate that about 1,500 new projects by SHDA members were registered with HLURB in 2002, representing a 20-percent increase from 2001's estimate of 1,200 projects and a 66-percent increase from year 2000's estimate of 900 projects. This represents as much as 100,000 new housing units to be started in 2002, representing a 60-percent increase in potential housing production from year 2000 levels of 60,000 units.

2. More HDMF Take-Outs. - Developers' take-out performance with Pag-Ibig Fund has likewise improved in the last two years. SHDA estimates that from a level of under P 3.8 Billion in 2001, there has been a 37-percent increase in fund utilization to about P 5.4 billion in 2002, representing an increase of almost 3,000 units.

3. Increased Participation of Private Banks. - We also cannot underestimate the significance of the private banking sector's interest in financing developer's Contracts To Sell and discounting their receivables. For a growing number of SHDA developers, these two modes are fast-becoming viable alternatives to the traditional government-based take-out windows. We estimate that as much as 14,000 units (P5.0 billion) were taken-out last year on the developer's CTS financing window alone.

Ms President, there is really nothing more we, developer-members of SHDA can ask for from you, except that you give us more time to fulfill our commitments. Like most responsible businesses, we prefer to be market-driven. We have learned from the perils of supply-driven housing production in the past and how it has almost brought ruin to sustainable housing finance. As long as the present state of local and international affairs is conducive for the market to buy our housing products, SHDA developers will not hesitate to produce all the houses that the market effectively demands.

SHDA's Advocacy
Against 10 % VAT on Housing Transactions

We are concerned that whatever gains that the housing sector has received during Your Excellency's term will be effectively wiped out as the full brunt of the additional 10-percent VAT on housing loan interest payments and other related housing financial services are foisted upon our customers.

At heart of the matter of housing production is the issue of customer affordability. What the 10-percent VAT does is to increase the monthly amortization of all consumers of housing products and services without due regard to their income levels. Such a move effectively increases the housing loan interest rates that we have worked so hard to reduce. Not only does it increase monthly amortizations across the board, but also increases the possibility of housing loan defaults as well. This has tremendous impact not only on the developer's ability to continue its commitment to produce units at lower costs, but also on the matter of sustaining housing finance over the long-term. Are we prepared to risk all the reforms in the housing sector, place housing finance in peril once more, and even put in question the significant multiplier effect the housing sector provides our GNP for the sake of 10-percent VAT, when the collection of a 5-percent gross receipts tax is already very acceptable to all sectors concerned?

While SHDA fully understands the government's urgent need to raise additional revenues, and in fact, we support any government tax initiative that promotes a progressive system of taxation in our country, we feel that the nation as a whole would be better served if, instead of an imposition of 10 percent VAT, we revert back to the 5 percent gross receipts tax (GRT) for all housing-related financial transactions.

We hope, Madame President, for the sake of all our past, present and future customers, we appeal to you to help us solve this matter in the soonest possible time.

Encourage More Private Banks Participation

Your Excellency will be quite happy to know that SHDA has started to make in-roads in convincing the private banking sector to participate more actively in housing finance. Indeed, the figures from the Bankers Association clearly indicate an increasing trend towards more end-user loans for residential property. Comparing June 2001 figures with December 2002, we note an increase in consumer home lending by P10 billion, which represents, in our estimate, an additional 19,000 units that were produced by the housing sector.

Against this backdrop is still the perception that, although the banking sector has loosened up its retail policies to accommodate more direct end-user financing, the trend for developmental loan availments has been on a steady decline. For the same period, we have noticed a 50-percent drop in loans related to development of subdivisions for housing, from a high of P42.3 billion as of June of 2001 to only P27.8 billion as of December 2002.

It is our appeal, Madame President, that you might convince the private banking sector to open up developmental loan windows for developers so that more housing projects can be started by the industry by asking the BSP to exempt housing from the real estate cap that commercial banks are presently subject to.

Our Privilege to Help Build a Strong Republic

Madame President, SHDA considers it a privilege to be working closely with government under your leadership to bring about your vision of a STRONG REPUBLIC. Like you, we do care for our industry and the millions of our countrymen that we are committed to serve through the provision of decent and affordable housing.

As an organization, SHDA believes that our continuous cooperation and open dialogue with government key shelter and line agencies is an essential step towards making sure that housing production continues to increase during your term and beyond. We know that, with you as our "most important ally", we know we cannot fail.

Thank you very much. We remain,
Very truly yours,

JESUS B. ATENCIO
National President

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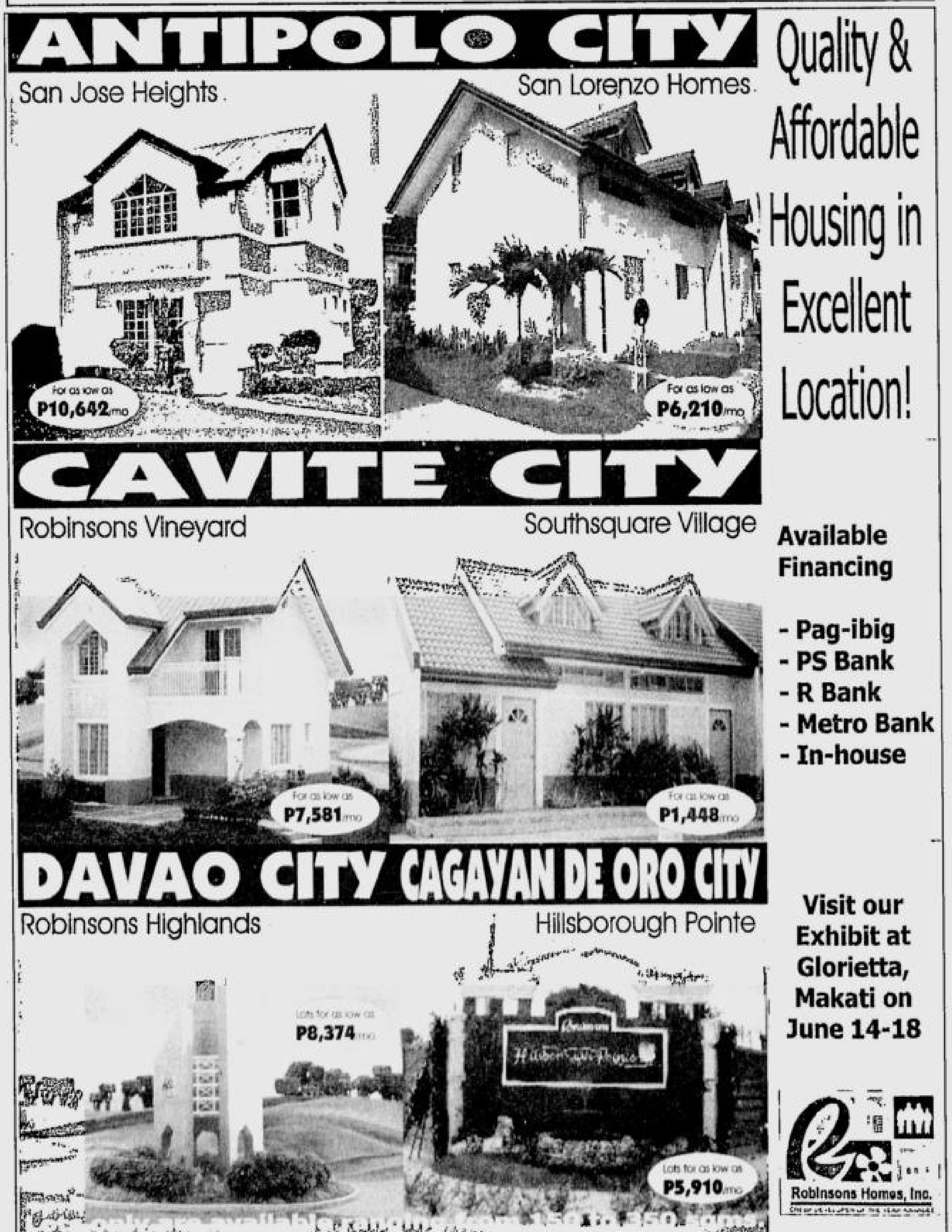
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Interested NGOs, foundations, LGUs and other non-profit groups that wish to get a copy of the Proposal Writing Guidebook may contact Tritium Knowledge Center at 531-0084, fax/tel. 535-4139, or 0919-9780. Inquiries may be sent to grantfunding2003@yahoo.com pr tkcp_ph@yahoo.com.

PRSP LAUNCHES 11TH NATIONAL PR CONGRESS
The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) during its first General Membership meeting (GMM) for 2003 held recently, launched the 11th National Public Relations Congress. Taking on the timely theme "Building Relationships for a Better World," the PR congress slated on Sept. 24 to 26, aims to bring together the country's corporate PR executives and professionals, faculty and students, advertising and marketing practitioners, and information officers from various government agencies. The three-day congress promises to share learnings and best practices for PR executives seeking to maximize rewards for limited budgets. Details for the 11th National PR Congress can be accessed in www.prsp -online.org or through the PRSP secretariat at 636-3242 to 43. In photo are the PR congress team heads (from left): Ma. Amylyn de Quiros, APR, Full Circle Communications - programs; Carmencita Arce, GMA Network - ways and means; Lourdes de Guzman, CAP Philippines - publicity and information; and Felisa Rosales, Land Bank of the Phils. - administrative.

OPENING CEREMONIES OF NFHFI 12TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
Department of Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. is shown cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremonies of the 12th National Convention and Trade Exhibits of the National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc., (NFHFI) held in Cebu City recently. Others in photo are (from left): Albert Lim Jr., president ; Nemecio Co, national chair; Norma Sybico, CPLA treasurer; Ma. Techie Capellan, Usec. for One-Million-Jobs; Bureau of Animal Industry director Dr. Jose Molina and National Meat Inspection Commission executive director Efren Nuestro.

Product FILES

Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce

AN ESSENTIAL in Oriental cooking, oyster sauce is a rich dark brown sauce extracted from oysters and blended with spices, caramel and brine. It enhances the appearance and flavor of any dish without overpowering their natural flavor. Mama Sita's Oyster Sauce is extracted from real oysters and soybeans blended with natural ingredients and processed under strict quality standards. It full-bodied flavor can stand alone as a sauce for Oriental dishes and as a main flavoring ingredient in many stir-fried preparations. For more information about Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces, visit its website at www.msita.com.

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Clips

PMA holds seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association (PMA) through its training arm, the Marketing Institute of the Philippines, presents 'Services Marketing: Marketing the Intangibles' on June 17, 18 and 20, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Acceed-AIM Conference Center, Makati City. This five-session seminar combines lectures, discussion and the preparation of a service marketing plan by groups which will equip participants with the proper managerial job perspectives as well as a better understanding and a deeper insight in marketing. The speakers guided by the principles of the marketing mix, will lead the participants through the marketing maze. For more information, call the PMA secretariat at 892-3144 / 813-0466 / 893-7127 / 893-6459 or fax 892-3261 or email pma@philonline.com.

Maharlikang Pilipino

THE MAHARLIKANG Pilipino goes on centerstage again for its 10th year anniversary on Wednesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Star Theater of Star City Park, CCP Complex Manila. The show will be hosted by Boy Abunda. Maharlikang Pilipino was conceived to search for young and talented Filipino youth who typify the best in the Filipino. It is produced by Bahaghari Production. This year's candidates come from as far as Canada, USA and other provinces. The pageant is presented by Philippine Daily Inquirer with The Philippine Star and CAP Philippines Inc. in cooperation with DLSU-CSB Hotel, Manila Bulletin, Colt 45, Celestial Media Services Inc., McDonald's Philippines, Cafe Lupe, Yakult Phils. and Roselle's Flowers and Gift Shops.

Colgate brings Barbie's Cradle to the Malls

COLGATE Fresh Confidence and Warner Music Philippines gives a breath of fresh air and sounds to slow things down in the hustle and bustle of metro's shopping meccas. Stop and take a listen as Barbie's Cradle dish their freshest repertoire from their latest studio album, "Playing in the Fields". Catch the band perform live on June 18 - SM Manila, June 20 - SM North Edsa, June 28 - SM Pampanga, July 4 - SM Bacoor, July 12 - SM Megamall, July 17 - SM Fairview, and July 19 in SM Cebu. On July 10, Barbie's Cradle will have an album launch party.

BUSINESS

April unemployment rate down to 12.2%

THE UNEMPLOYMENT in the country declined to 12.2 percent in April this year from 13.9 percent in the same month last year, preliminary labor force survey results showed.

The April 2003 jobless rate figure, however, was higher than the 10.6 percent in January, the survey results showed.

The National Statistics Office, which reports unemployment data at the start of every quarter, said the number of the unemployed in April reached 4.22 million, down from 4.87 million a year earlier.

The number of workers in the services sector, which absorbs the bulk of the country's labor force, grew 0.4 percent year-on-year, but its share of the total employment dipped slightly to 47.4 percent from 47.5 percent.

Employment in agriculture rose 1.2 percent year-on-year to 11.2 million from 11 million, with its share increasing to 36.7 percent from 36.5 percent.

Employment in the industry sector rose 0.8 percent from April 2002 with its share of the total employed unchanged at 16 percent.

The total labor force population in April fell 1.2 percent to 34.6 million from 35.1 million a year earlier, with the participation rate declining to 67.1 percent from 69.9 percent. *Reuters*

Philippine Labor Force Survey April 2003 (Preliminary Results)

	April 2003	Jan. 2003	Oct. 2002	July 2002	April 2002
Unemployment (In 000)	4,217	3,559	3,423	3,814	4,866
Rate (%)	12.2	10.6	10.2	11.2	13.90

Tuna industry seen to generate 2,000 new jobs

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Tuna producers here said the reduction of the tariff imposed by the European Commission on canned tuna from the Philippines would result in the generation of at least 2,000 jobs in the next six months.

Domingo Teng, president of the Socsksargen Federation of Fishing Associations and Allied Industries (SFFAAI), said the tariff reduction would enable the seven tuna canneries here to maximize their production capacity.

The European Commission (EC) approved last week the EC Regulation which provides tariff rate quota (TRQ) for canned tuna exports from the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand to the European market.

The TRQ, which will take effect on July 1, will be in place for five years.

As a result, the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia can export up to 25,000 metric tons of canned tuna per year to European countries at the reduced tariff of 12 percent.

Out of the 25,000-MT allocation, the Philippines gets an export quota share of 9,000 metric tons of canned tuna. This will increase by 3 percent per year starting next year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said during her visit here that this was the first time the Philippine government succeeded in its lobby for an equal treatment from WTO-member countries.

Seven out of the 12 tuna processing plants in the country are found in this city. The city is also the leading producer of tuna, particularly sashimi.

Teng added that the seven tuna canning plants here have total production capacity of 800 metric tons per day, but at present they were operating at only 60-percent capacity.

In a statement, SFFAAI said that "with the reduction of the tariff, we expect an increase in our market share and a moderate 20-percent additional utilization of our existing capacity over the next six months."

The statement added that aside from the 2,000 direct jobs, the 20-percent increase in the production of tuna canneries would generate about 4,000 indirect employment opportunities for residents here.

Tuna producers in the country are expecting to export 750,000 cases of canned tuna to Europe worth about P250 million.

Canned tuna is a multimillion-dollar industry posting about US$130 million earnings in 1999. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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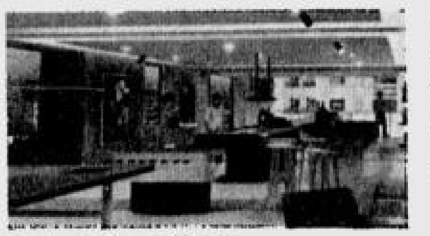

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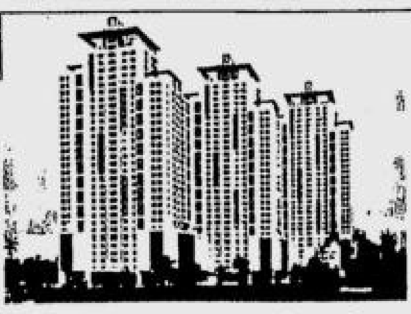

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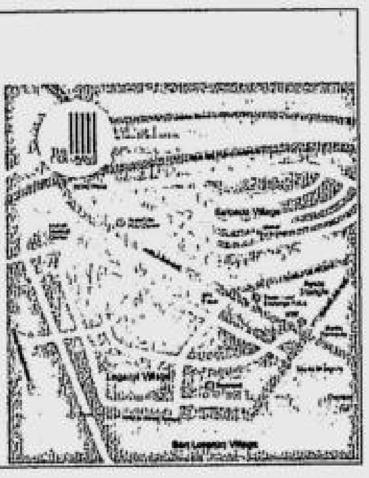

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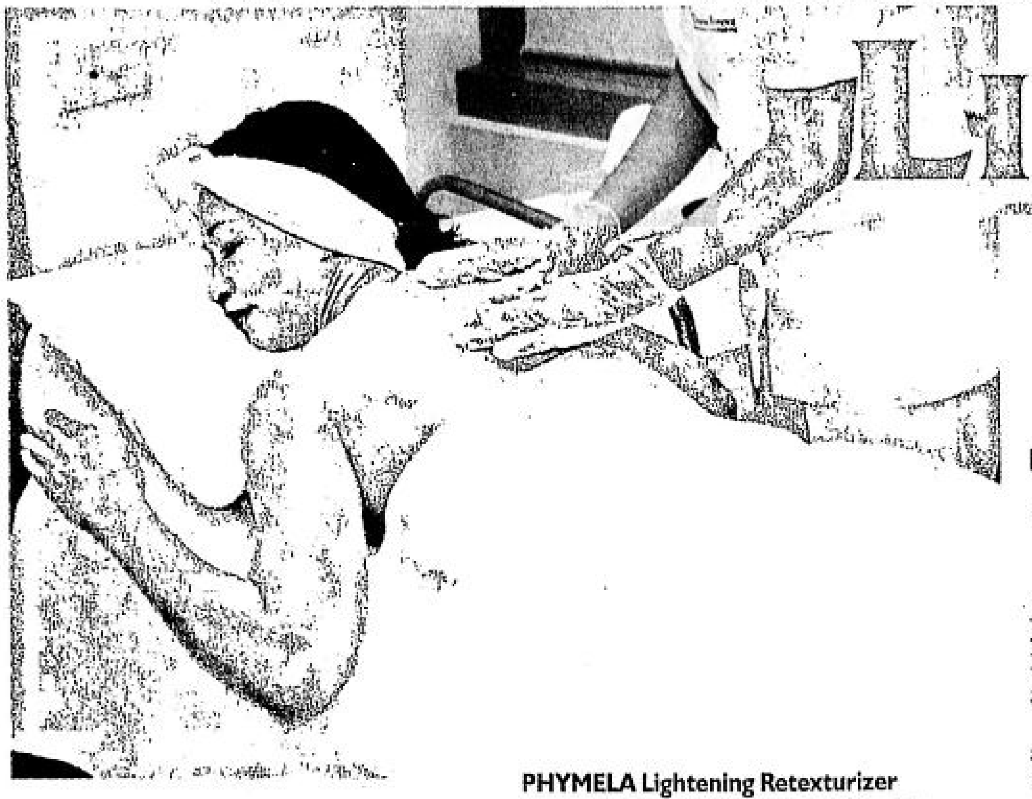


PHYMELA Lightening Retexturizer treatment helps remove body blemishes and discolorations.

Lighten up!

Marie-France goes beyond slimming to introduce a skin whitening treatment program

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

HAVE you ever noticed that when you gain weight, certain dark areas appear on your body—around the neck, nape, armpit and belly, for instance?

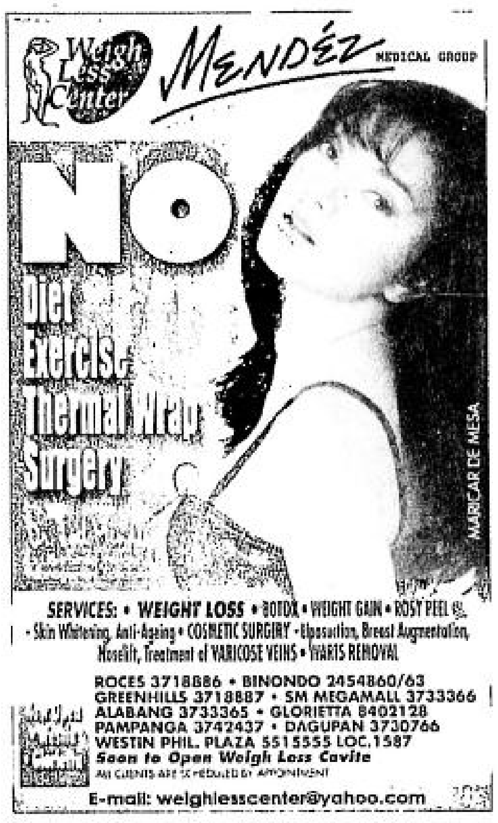
And even if you lose weight, those dark spots remain. So as much as you want to flaunt your new, slimmer shape, these unattractive dark areas prevent you from looking your very best, especially in body-baring clothes.

Now, your skin and those pesky dark spots need not be a worry. Marie-France goes beyond slimming and introduces an all-new treatment that will give women another reason to show off their figures.

The Phymela Lightening Retexturizer treatment uses a specially formulated plant-based cream to lighten darkened areas on the surface of your body that may appear during weight gain and will remain even after weight loss.

And while it claims to firm up the tone and

LIGHTEN/C2



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Walking down that bottled water aisle

Choosing bottled water is sometimes like choosing the right man or woman. Make the wrong choice and it will make your life miserable. Choose the right one and ahhhhh! Your partner, or bottled water, washes away all your cares.

Water is our body's "better-half." It makes up more than half of our body. It's responsible for nearly all bodily functions. And it maintains the health of most of our organs. That's why it's important to choose "the right one."

But how do you do that with so many types of bottled water in the market? While there is no "best" type of water, as there is no "best" type of man or woman either, a brief rundown of the kinds of bottled water commercially available might help you choose the right type for your life.

According to Henry Kim, Ph.D., a chemist at the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Plant and Dairy Foods and Beverages, bottled water can be divided into two categories: their bottling method and extraction process or origin.

1. **Spring Water** - This type of bottled water must be collected only at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation feeding the spring. As such, very little treatment is allowed with spring water.
2. **Mineral Water** - Comes from a source tapped at one or more bore holes or springs from a geologically and physically protected underground water source. It is distinguished from other types of bottled water by its constant level of mineral and other trace elements at the point of emergence from the source and contains not less than 250 parts per million total dissolved solids.
3. **Purified Water** - This type has been treated by distillation, reverse osmosis, or other processes that meet the definition of "purified water" in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia. Purified water must have less than 10 parts per million of dissolved solids. It is also sometimes called distilled water.
4. **Distilled Water** - Made by boiling water and taking the steam through a special process, thus cooling the steam to reform water again. Distilled water has cleansing effects but if used for over a long period of time it will leach vital nutrients out of the body. It should only be drunk on a short term cleansing program to detoxify the body.
5. **Sterilized Water** - This is the safest type of bottled water as it is completely free from bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microorganisms that could cause infection. Sterilized water must meet international standards for commercial sterility as well as "sterility test" requirements to be classified as sterilized water. Because it is the safest and cleanest water commercially available, sterilized water is recommended for use by infants for formula feeding and drunk by people with immuno-compromised systems.

There it is.

So next time you're walking down that supermarket aisle, read the labels to ascertain the type and the quality of the water before you say, "Yes, I do" want this water.

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Lighten up!

From page C1

even out the texture of the body, it also reduces cellulite by acting on trapped fat deposits in the superficial areas within the body.

The result: a lighter, softer look to complement the sexy curves.

Dr. Ariel Torres, Marie-France Makati center physician, says Phymela Lightening Retexturizer was formulated to answer the demand of clients who want to improve their skin texture and at the same time get rid of the dark spots.

"Normally, this whitening process would be handled by Marie-France's sister company, Facial Care Center," he says. "However, the process involves the whole body and not just the face. It's more suited to Marie France because we're the ones dealing with the entire body of [a patient with] weight problems."

The treatment is advisable for people who have blemishes and discolorations in certain areas of their body. These occur for many reasons, but one of them, says Torres, is obesity.

"Due to the increased growth hormone release when people get fat, there is also a concomitant release of melanin stimulating factor. As a result, this causes the darkening of areas specifically where fat accumulates, aggravated by the tightening of clothes (due to increased body size) in those areas. Even when you've already lost the fat that you gained before, certain stretch marks may appear," he says.

"Pregnant women are also prone to get hyperpigmentation (the accumulation of melanin pigments that causes dark spots). During pregnancy, women develop dark areas in the neck, underarm, under the breasts and around the bikini line. After giving birth, these dark spots lighten a bit but not totally. Some return to their original skin color and texture, but there's a large percentage that they won't."

DR. Ariel Torres explains Marie-France's latest body treatment. JOHNNY VILLENA

Phymela Lightening Retexturizer is meant to tackle these problems by preventing and controlling melanin. It's not a bleaching procedure, but the effect is somewhat similar.

The magic treatment

Phymela Lightening Retexturizer is a combination of three treatments that are said to work together to give better results than any single stand-alone product.

It works in three ways: the initial cleansing treatment uses Tea Tree Oil, which purifies the skin and removes blemishes. Tea Tree oil is also known to be antiseptic. The oil is first applied to the client's entire body.

"There are several hand strokes involved here, and they're done for a couple of minutes," says Torres.

The second treatment, which uses the processed feathery leaves of a Wattle tree or shrub as a scrubbing medium, removes dead cells from the epidermis to promote new skin growth from the underlying dermis.

"The scrubbing is needed to eliminate dead cells. The client is then brought to the shower room to clean up in preparation for the third treatment," explains Torres.

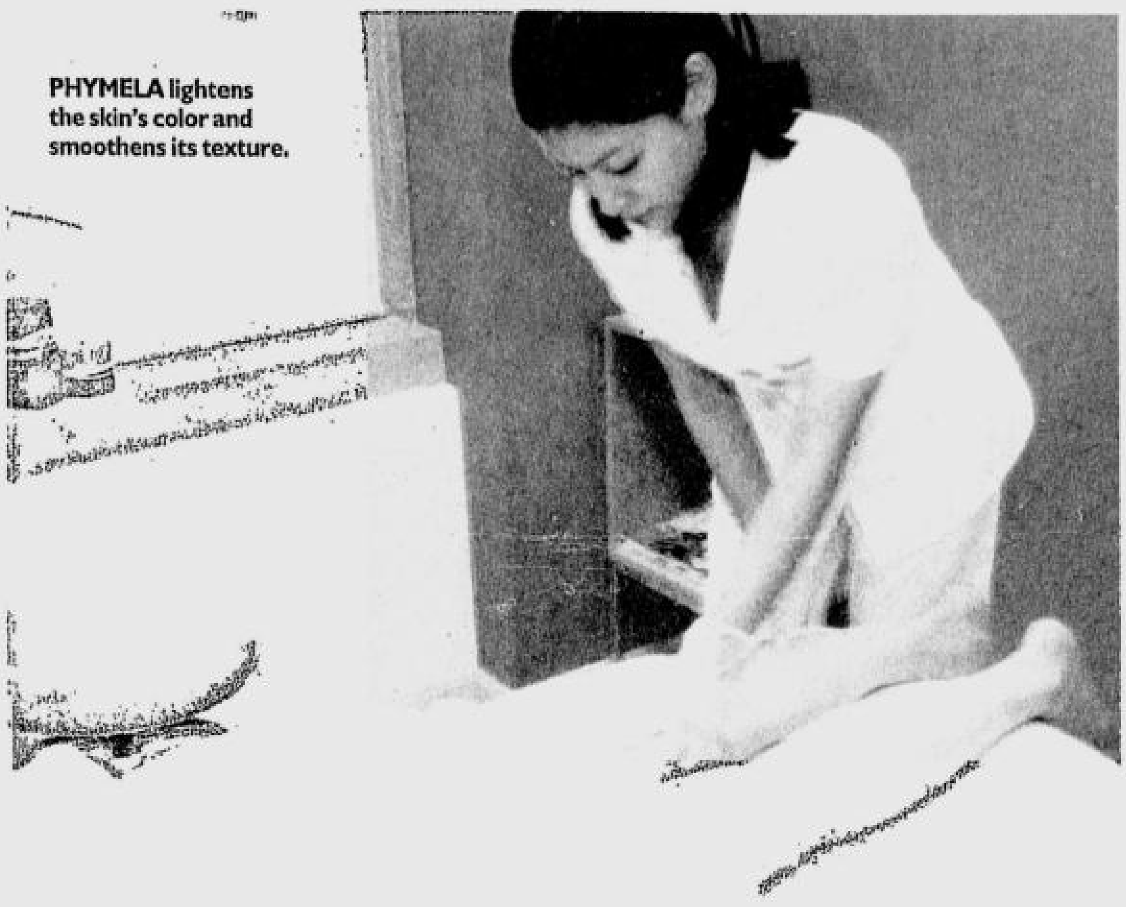
The last treatment uses papaine enzyme lotion (from papaya extract that helps dissolve dead skin) to help lighten the skin by inhibiting melanin pigment formation.

"The third process closes what was opened up by the wattle scrub, but the lotion itself does not only act as a closure. It also has lightening capability."

In effect, the first step (cleansing) prepares the skin for the second step (scrubbing). In turn, the second step prepares the skin for the the third step (the whitening lotion).

In the reverse order, the third step closes the pores that were opened during the second step. This, in turn, completes the cleansing effect done by the first step.

"Try to remember that each step has its own individual effect," says Torres. "So you not only get one treatment, or even three treatments, but seven treatments all in one due to Phymela's synergistic effect. Phymela products have also anti-cellulite properties which will further benefit the clients."



PHYMELA lightens the skin's color and smoothens its texture.

All these treatments are done in one session in a clean, cozy, private air-conditioned room with built-in shower, for about 30-45 minutes. Marie-France, which offers the services that accompany the treatment, doesn't sell the whitening products.

But is there any side effect to it? "The only side affect I know is when you're allergic to any of the substances used. These are only topical applications. They're not designed to be absorbed internally. It's not systemic. It's very superficial," says Torres.

He further assures that Phymela's lightening cream doesn't contain high doses of harmful chemical agents that could cause skin irritation and redness. The creams are made from natural, safe ingredients that produce effective results without any risk to one's delicate skin.

After the treatment, Torres says it's best to stay away from the sun for a couple of days.

Immediate result

How long does it take before results will show? "It varies from individual to individual," he says, adding that the treatment also appeals to men. "Many of our clients report a dramatic improvement after only few sessions. Some take longer than expected."

The Phymela treatment can be done in several sessions. Still, the frequency depends on one's skin condition. The attending doctor needs to assess the skin before and after the first treatment.

"Deep and inherent scars due to injuries, wounds, post-acne or abscess, infections and rashes like chicken pox and measles may take quite longer," says Torres.

Although the stretch marks may not completely disappear, the restorative action of Phymela will decrease their appearance and visibility.

"We don't give our clients false hopes. We can only guarantee what occurs during the treatment per se. I know they will lighten, but the extent of the 'lightening' I cannot tell. On the average, however, most of our clients find that their complexions appear clearer and fairer after three to four sessions," he says.

So having whiter, smoother skin is not quite as impossible as you think now, provided that you have the patience—and the money—to try Marie-France's Phymela treatment.

Marie-France Phils. (tels. 8152625/8152539) has nine branches, namely, Makati City, Ortigas Center, Timog Ave., Binondo, Alabang, Shaw Blvd., Congressional Avenue, Pampanga and Cebu.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Enhanced formula addresses women's primary skin problem

WRINKLES are women's primary beauty problems. Fifty-four percent of 3,130 women in seven countries, which the Dior Science Observatory interviewed, believe that beautiful skin is smooth and wrinkle-free. Of these women, 67 percent cites lines around their eyes, mouth and forehead as among the signs of aging that cause them most concern.

In answer to these needs, the Dior Science Innovation Center, which formulates and develops products to address women's beauty needs, presents Dior Capture R60180, an enhanced formula based on the original Dior Capture line which revolutionized skin care during the 1980's.

The Dior Capture line was among the first to apply liposome technology in cosmetics. This original formula has been enhanced with a breakthrough component, the Complex, which reduces wrinkles by 60 percent within an hour after application and makes skin visibly younger by 80 percent within a month.

The R complex, which contains extract of Mallow flower tops, potentilla extract, a Russian plant, and lipopeptide, boosts cell activity and enhances the skin's underlying layer for firmer, younger-looking skin.

CAPTURE
XR60/80
Dior

Formulas in Dior Capture R60/80 line unroll on the skin like a vacuum patch. This patch pulls up the hollows of wrinkles and slightly retracts them to keep skin tight. This gives the immediate visible result, seen after only an hour. The internal structure of the patch is a reservoir of active ingredients such as the R-Complex, which is released intensively hour after hour to rebuild the skin.

The Dior Capture Line includes the Extra Vital Restoring Serum, which renews and revitalizes the skin; Ultimate Wrinkle Creme, which smoothes and refines the skin so that it appears even; Wrinkle Pre-Treatment Lotion, prepares the skin to accept the Dior Capture R60/80 treatment formulas; Wrinkle Eye Creme irons out crow's feet and illuminates the eye area; Intense Wrinkle Night Fluid allows for in-depth strengthening of the skin and gives a radiant glow in the morning; Instant Ultra-Smoothing Fluid gives a beauty boost and dramatically smoothes wrinkles, gives the skin an instant glow and an even-toned complexion.

Christian Dior skin care and cosmetics are available only at Rustan's.

All-natural skin care from look-good, feel-good company

TUPPERWARE has come out with breakthrough products created for total, all-natural image solutions under the BeautiControl line.

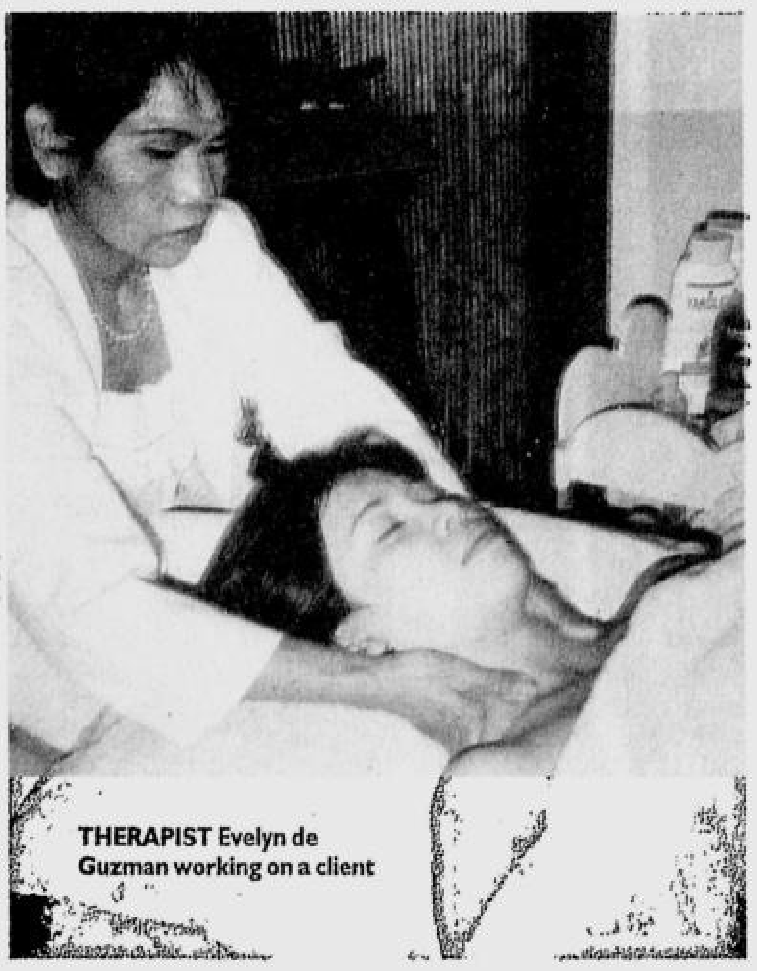
The Revitalizing Face Scrub deeply cleanses skin, drawing out impurities with its uniquely formulated, perfectly rounded beads.

The revolutionary Cell Block-C, which contains the antioxidant Vitamin C, known to fight the formation of free radicals that cause wrinkles and damage, nourishes your skin for a younger and more radiant appearance. It also contains SPF 20 with Parsol 1789, which provides powerful protection from harmful UVA and UVB says.

Tight Fix Facial Firming Complex instantly lifts, tightens, and firms skin on your face and neck. With light-diffusing ingredients to brighten dull skin and help minimize the appearance of lines, wrinkles, and other skin imperfections, and natural botanicals to reduce puffiness, Tight Fix also works as a great makeup base that ensures longer-lasting makeup.

In line with Tupperware's global vision of providing "Total Life Continuum," all these highly innovative and scientifically advanced products are dermatologist-tested, sensitivity- and allergy-tested, fragrance free, non-comedogenic, non-acnegenic and ophthalmology-tested.

Call 888-5521, 845-4798; or e-mail philmktg@tupperware.com.



THERAPIST Evelyn de Guzman working on a client

Spa services in beauty salon

FRANK Provost Salon along Jupiter Street recently launched its Therapie Central, a new massage center that offers different kinds of body treatments and spa services.

"Nowadays, people do not just focus on good grooming, they also want to feel good about themselves," explains Frank Provost manager Tisha Cruz-Bautista. "We all know that apart from salons, people go to spas. We decided to open Therapie Central so our clients can just come here for both their beauty and relaxation needs, instead of going through the hassles of scheduling their spa session on one day and their hair cut or blow dry on another. Here they can have it all in one sitting. We want it to be a one-stop beauty and relaxation center."

The center provides different body massage treatments, including specialized ones for hands and feet, as well as body scrubs and other spa services for both men and women. Each treatment includes a 15-minute consultation with a therapist.

Managing the center is Evelyn de Guzman, a therapist who worked in Hong Kong for 22 years. De Guzman trained at Frederick's School in Hong Kong, worked for the Philip Wayne Club, and was the personal therapist of many in Hong Kong's society circuit.

Therapie Central is open from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., by appointment.

Revolutionary all-in-one spa treatment machine

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART Dermalife 5.5 pH Hydrofusion Skin and Body Care System for beauty and spa treatments is now available at David's Salon.

"We are the first to bring this technology in the country. With Dermalife 5.5 pH, our clients will gain access to a unique collection of face and body treatments combining the best of traditional spa services with the breakthrough results of Hydrofusion therapy," says David's Salon Group founder and beauty expert David Charlton.

A treatment entails placing the client inside the treatment chamber of the Dermalife machine. Depending on the treatment, the body can then be subjected to stimulating steam, infrared energy rays, aromas and herbal preparations, even vibration. Facial treatments can be performed using the face steam ports, which allow steam to be vented and blown onto the face.

David's Day Spa operations head Kris Fajardo explains that Dermalife is designed to complement and improve high demand treatments such as cellulite reduction; skin nourishing, moisturizing, re-mineralizing and softening; body contouring, body compression, figure shaping; anti-aging and anti-wrinkling and facial treatments. Skin bronzing or skin whitening can also be done.

The machine can also improve slimming services and weight-loss treatments, says Fajardo.

"Dermalife's features and functions are adjustable at the touch of your fingertips. You can easily set and readjust any of the settings from inside the unit. The controls are effortlessly monitored by means of a functional digital control panel. Precise environmental therapy is delivered in accordance with individually selected skin and body care treatments for unique, customized balance and perfection."

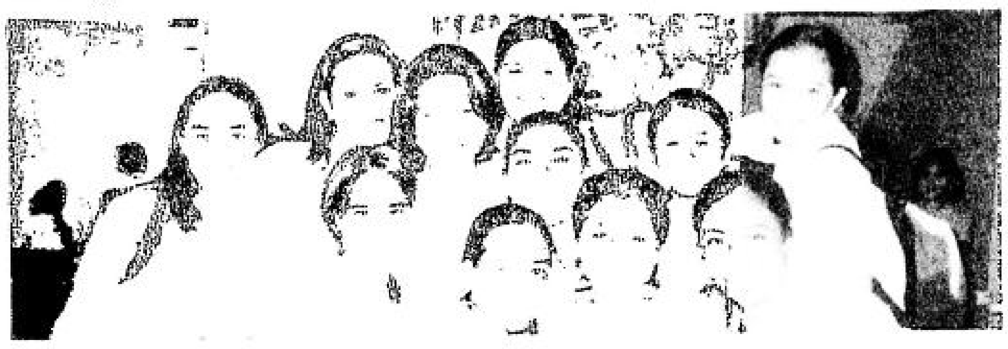
Chill-out party on campuses

ASTRING-O-SOL gives cool confidence.

ASTRING-O-SOL, the popular mouthwash brand, recently went campus-hopping with the "Astring-O-Sol Chill-out Bash."

The event featured fun games like the longest kiss contest, gave away prizes, set up a dedication wall to let the students write down their messages and announcements, and awarded a "couple of the day/night" title.

The visited campuses were UST, Ateneo, St. Joseph, St. Scholastica, Miriam College, Assumption College and UP Manila. Visits to more schools are being planned.



STUDENTS flash their best smiles.

Spanish oral care products now in Manila

PIERROT, a leading brand of oral care products in Spain, is now available in Manila.

Its toothbrushes use soft, rounded tips and high-quality Tynex Dupont bristles, non-slip ergonomic flexible handles and heads to facilitate access between teeth spaces and a joint which absorbs any excessive pressure produced while brushing the teeth.

There are specially-designed toothbrushes for kids, people with dentures and those who are always travelling.

Orthodontic toothbrushes are also available for people with braces.

All Pierrot toothbrushes come with protective caps to prevent twisted filaments and ensure maximum hygiene.

Pierrot's other products include a mouthwash and toothpaste in one, interdental brushes for between-the-teeth cleaning, dental floss, non-alcoholic mouthwashes, whitening toothpaste, toothpaste for sensitive teeth and gums, and gum protection with aloe.

Available at selected SM Supermarkets, Cash and Carry Supermarket and Landmark Department Store.

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LASIK TECH

LASIK is just one of the comprehensive eye care services available at Asian Eye Institute. Where a team of caring and experienced world-class eye specialists work relentlessly to help make the Philippines the new center of professional eye care in Asia. Global expertise and advanced equipment: that's Asian care for Asian eyes.

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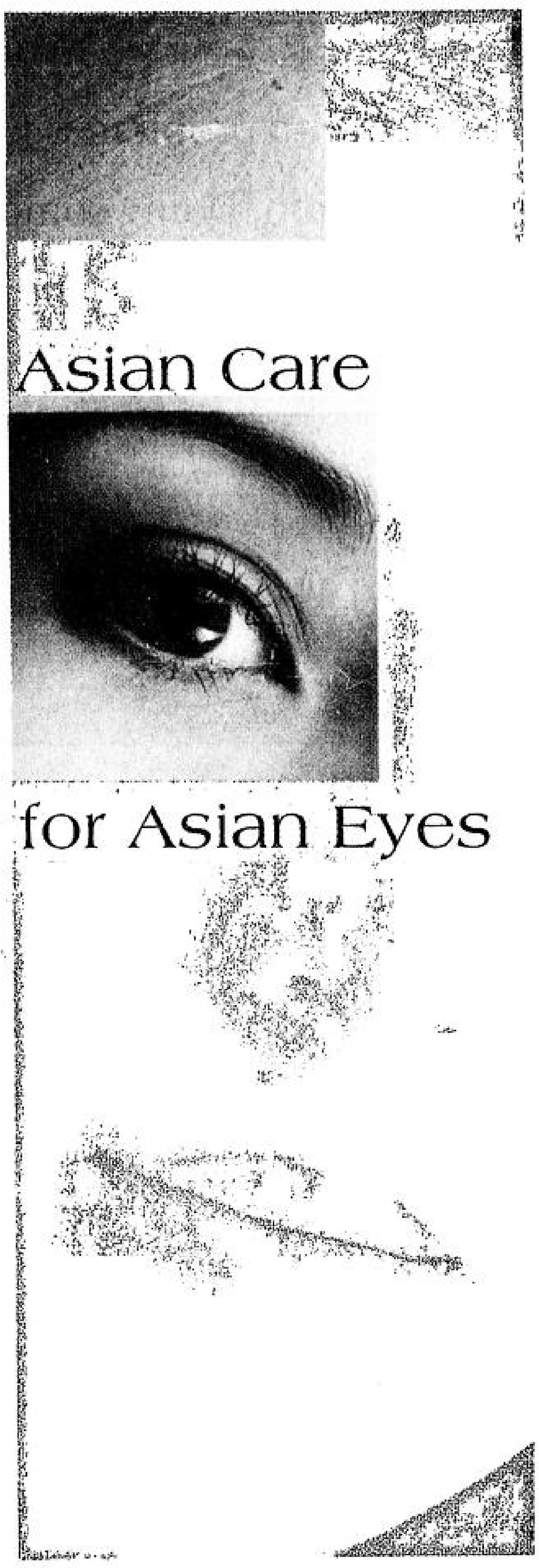

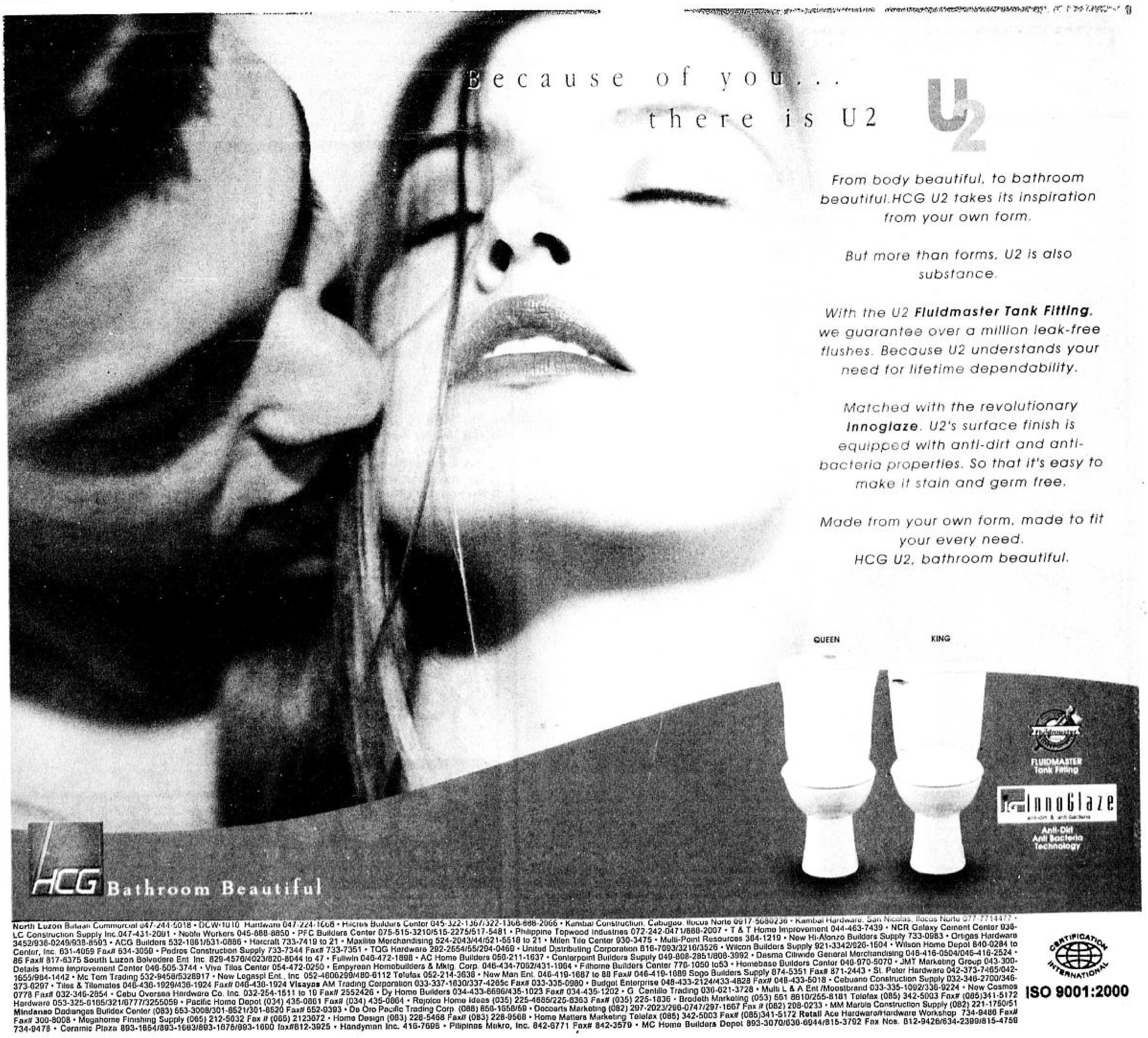

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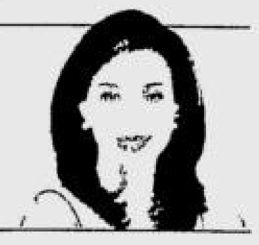
Worrying over a problem is not the solution. Doing something about it is

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Be a warrior, not a worrier

The Zen Master said, "Who binds you?" The seeker of liberty said, "No one binds me." The Zen Master said, "Then why seek liberation?"—Zen Mondo

INSIDE OUT



Cory Quirino

HUMAN beings, according to psychologists, are unaware of the power of their emotions.

Many individuals go through life without truly understanding who they are and what their purpose is. And their pursuit of the understanding of life and all its answers remains, more often than not, elusive until they take their own personal mystery to their graves.

The mind wields tremendous influence over one's attitude towards life. It can create a heaven or a hell, a prison or a paradise for one person.

Either way, one truth prevails: You are the cause of your emotions. The liberating discovery is this: Worrying over a problem is not the solution. Doing something about it is. Because the more you worry, the more you put your life on hold.

Worrying is a negative emotion. It floods your body with cortisol, the stress hormone. And if you feel you are constantly "under siege," then you will depress your immune system and become more prone to illness.

An example: If you break a bone in your foot, your foot will not stop hurting until you tend to it. The pain is not the problem.

Painful emotions do the same thing. They call attention to what needs to be healed in you, that you might reach your fullest potential, that you make permanent changes in yourself in order to become who you really are.

So back to the universal question: "Who are you?" When you answer this question, be honest with yourself. Lying to yourself is the biggest deception of all. It is a sin against the self.

Deeply-rooted in one's search for fulfillment is a golden rule: Everyone is entitled to his or her own personal happiness. The key to fulfillment is to change our agreements.

The four agreements

Don Miguel Ruiz, in his Toltec wisdom book, speaks of an ancient culture and its prescriptions.

He explains that as children, we didn't have the ability to choose our beliefs, we accepted them as a way of living—what is acceptable, what is not, good vs. bad, right vs. wrong.

This programming taught us about rewards. That if we behave in an acceptable way, we are entitled to the rewards of social acceptance—the attention of the family and of society at large.

It also taught us to be afraid of rejection. The fear of being rejected becomes the fear of not being good enough. Eventually, we become someone we were programmed to be—someone that we are not.

We become a copy of parental, societal and religious beliefs. And as we grow up, we no longer need external forces to control us because we begin to domesticate ourselves.

All our beliefs go into a book of law where the judge sits and says we are guilty or not. Keeping the judge company is the one who receives the judgment: the victim who carries the blame, guilt and shame, whose personal line is "I am not worthy."

The Book of Law, if broken, opens emotional wounds that create emotional poison. Why? Because everything in the Book of Law has to be true and anything that challenges your beliefs is going to make you feel unsafe.

Courage: the equalizer

It takes courage to step outside ourselves, to remake ourselves. Eric Fromm once wrote, "It is man's duty to give birth to himself."

Man is the only animal on earth that pays a thousand times for the same mistakes.

We have a powerful memory. We make a mistake, we judge ourselves, and punish ourselves. But every time we remember or are reminded of a mistake, we punish ourselves again.

Example: If a wife/husband, father/mother reminds us of a mistake, the guilt-judge-punish cycle is repeated. Is this fair? Ultimately, we cannot forgive ourselves for what we believe we should be: for not being perfect.

Feeling false, frustrated and dishonest, we:

1. hide behind a social mask to keep others from noticing our fears;
2. dishonor ourselves by pleasing others;
3. do harm to our bodies by trying to forget our problems through drugs and alcohol.

Prelude to a new dream

Get back your personal power by adopting new agreements with yourself.

1. Be impeccable with your word. The word is a force with the power to create the events in your life.

The Bible speaks of how creation began with "In the beginning was the Word…" To be impeccable means to be without sin, but in this context it says that anything you do which goes against yourself is a sin.

In short, be true to yourself when you speak. The word is misused to curse, to blame, to find guilt, to destroy. The energy used behind the word has a rebound effect called karma.

2. Don't take anything personally. Nothing others do is because of you. What others say or do is a projection of their own reality. When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.

3. Don't make assumptions. Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really are. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama.

4. Always do your best. Simply give it everything you've got and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret. If you succeed, well and good. If you fail, at least your conscience is free and clear.

Anti-worry drink

A water detox is the best thing you can do to cleanse yourself. Take one full glass of pure, clean tepid (not cold) water, then add five drops of lemon or orange juice for flavor every hour. As you drink it, repeat to yourself, "I will drink from the goodness of life."

Love and light!

Excerpted from "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz and "The Heart of the Soul" by Dr. Gary Zukav

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What differentiates a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) from most medical insurance plans?

One aspect of HMOs separating them from other types of health plans or insurances is the use of Medical Coordinators or Primary Care Physicians in every accredited medical facility (network of hospitals and clinics). HMO plan members are required to "go through" the Medical Coordinator, who will in turn make arrangements on the medical care required to a member. Also, HMO plans typically provide a high level of preventive medical care to its planholders while keeping out-of-pocket expenses to a minimum. This is in contrast to medical insurance which require its members to pay in advance expenses for their medical availments, and later reimburse.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Edwin Carlos Bernardo, a recent addition to our team of accredited doctors, specializes in the field of General Surgery. He is a graduate of Medicine from FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation and took his residency training for his specialization at Medical City General Hospital. During his free time, he enjoys his hobbies of playing badminton and table tennis or simply by spending time with his wife Michelle and their children. For member's consultations, visit him at the Medical Polyclinic and Diagnostic Center at Roman Cruz Jr. Ave., Soldiers' Hills, Putatan, Muntinlupa City. He holds clinic every Fridays, 10 AM to 2 PM

New Corporate Member

STARPACK PHILIPPINES CORPORATION signed last June 05 its corporate healthcare agreement with MEDICard at the Richmonde Hotel. Present during the signing were (seated L-R) MEDICard's Luis Montoya (EVP & GM) & Dr. Nicanor Montoya (Pres.), Starpack's Enofreo Villena (Pres.) & Emerson Villarante (VP-HR) with account's broker Winebrenner & Iñigo Insurance Asso.'s Restituto Capati (Pres.) & Fellie Jacinto (AVP-Corp. Mktg.). (Standing L-R) Voltaire Victoria (MEDICard Mktg. & Sales Mngr.), Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Mktg. Services Mngr.), Ester Yumul (Starpack Union Aud.), Nenila Pawid (Starpack HR & Admin. Mngr.), Arturo Ignacio (Starpack Union Pres.), Winebrenner's Rowie Liwanag (Mktg. Asst.-EB) & Weng Avila (Mktg. Asst.) and Angelita Lopez (Starpack HR Staff)

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 818-2161. For group or corporate membership, dial 812-8360, 817-5136 or 817-4985 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

Nu Skin Clear Action
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PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS PROMO

This June, Nu Skin is offering a special promo consisting of five packages of premium personal care products plus lots of freebies. These packages are the Shower of Care, Shower of Pampering, Shower of Renewal, Shower of Clarity, and Shower of Indulgence collections. Mothers who want to shower their kids with love and care can use Epoch Baby products. Nu Skin's Galvanic Spa System, a breakthrough skin care technology, allows one to enjoy the benefits of a professional spa at the comfort of home. Nu Skin's Shower of Renewal, featuring 1800 System and Celltrex Ultra Recovery Fluid, will bring back your skin's youthful glow. Call 689-0333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph.

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LIFESTYLE Fitness

Filipino smokers starting at very young age

By Belle V. Bondoc

IN the Philippines, smoking remains acceptable. This is why despite the anti-smoking lobby and mounting proof of tobacco's health risks, the number of young smokers is still rising.

It is natural for teenagers to try something new. In many cases, teens smoke because of *pakikisama*. Others think smoking is glamorous—when you smoke, you're hip. But once they are hooked on tobacco, they find it hard to quit.

The World Bank reports that the smoking prevalence among children in urban areas is about 30 percent. Majority of the youngsters start smoking at 13 to 15 years old.

By the time they are adults, they are likely to be heavy smokers. Roughly 90 percent of adult smokers were confirmed tobacco users before the age of 18.

This suggests that preventing young people from taking up the smoking habit can lead to fewer adult smokers and a reduction in health cases related to tobacco use.

No laws prohibit the sale of cigarettes to minors, and children are often the ones selling cigarettes on the streets.

Tobacco advertising in all media is freely allowed and smoking is usually glamorized in billboards, sports and even social events, and movies.

During the recent observance of World No Tobacco Day, member countries of the World Health Organization adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Among other things, the international treaty calls for a halt to tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

Health forum

The list of ill effects of smoking keeps growing. Tobacco is a unique threat to health because it is legal and so widely available.

The Philippine College of Physicians and Mirror Magazine conducted recently a health forum dubbed "Breaking Free From Tobacco."

Attended by medical professionals and representatives of different government agencies, the forum discussed proposals to increase the tobacco excise tax and to put in place more stringent anti-tobacco legislation and more restrictions on tobacco advertising and smoking in public places.

The forum emphasized, "The smoker is not the enemy but the tobacco."

Many studies show that tobacco is the most preventable of all killers.

Anti-smoking campaigns aim to shock smokers, particularly minors, into kicking the habit by using real-life stories of people dying of lung cancer and smoking-related diseases.

YOUNG smokers

But many smokers confess that withdrawal is not easy. Some even claim to "benefit" from smoking. There are smokers who claim tobacco is a good source of energy while others say it promotes focus and concentration.

But health experts know the hazards of smoking outweigh its "benefits." The World Health Organization and the Department of Health say tobacco use increases the risk of heart attack and related illnesses.

> The government earned some P21.4 billion from tobacco but spent almost P42 billion for the medical care of smokers

"Smokers die of ailments such as lung cancer (the most common disease), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), coronary artery and cerebrovascular diseases, bronchitis, emphysema, heart diseases leading to heart attack, and even impotency," says Dr. Andy David of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians.

Worse, even non-smokers who inhale smoke from somebody's cigarette can also contract tobacco-related diseases.

"Statistics show that an average of 570 people per hour die of tobacco-related diseases (about one person every six seconds)," says Dr. David.

Based on figures of the Philippine Cancer Society, lung cancer is the number one killer disease in the Philippines, with almost 11,000 cases registered every year.

Tobacco control legislation

Philippine legislators have drafted several bills to ensure more effective tobacco controls. Early this month, Congress' bicameral conference committee approved a bill to reg-

FILIPINO/ D4

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Marlon Bobis takes a quick rest along the pavements of South Expressway, Makati, after a day of work. Bobis sells cigars on the streets.

DENNIS SABANGAN

this WEEK @ SM SUPERMALLS
an Acoustic afternoon with acoustic pair
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3pm
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SM City BICUTAN
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Cowboy Grill
MABINI ☎ 525.1474 — THINKERS W/ JOGRAD, CHICULLED, MEN OPPOSE — NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143 — SERSIDE, ICE KENDI — NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757 — MUSIC CIRCUIT, MR. ROXY — BLAKDYAK ALL FRIDAY'S OF JUNE
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268 — FAT 16, HEADWORKZ — NO ENTRANCE FEE
TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735 — ALCHEMY, VERSE 2 — NO ENTRANCE FEE
REMEDIOS ☎ 522.0429 — RHYTHM ACE, 3RD MOVEMENT — NO ENTRANCE FEE
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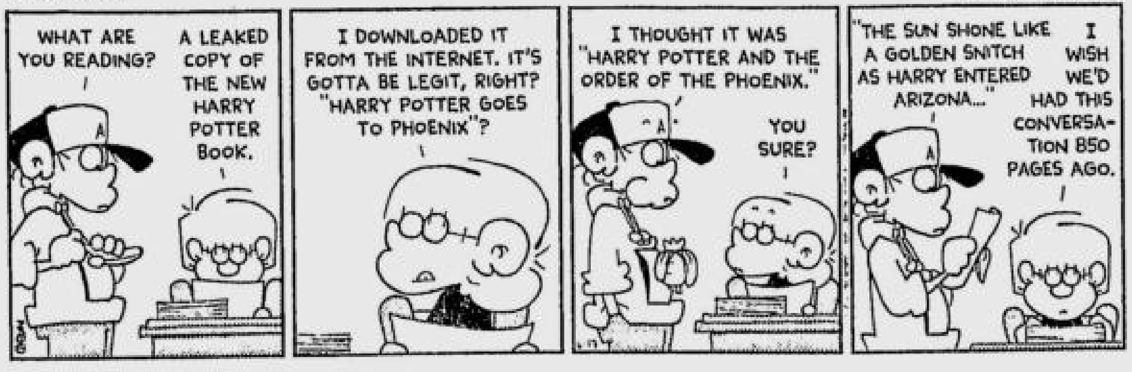
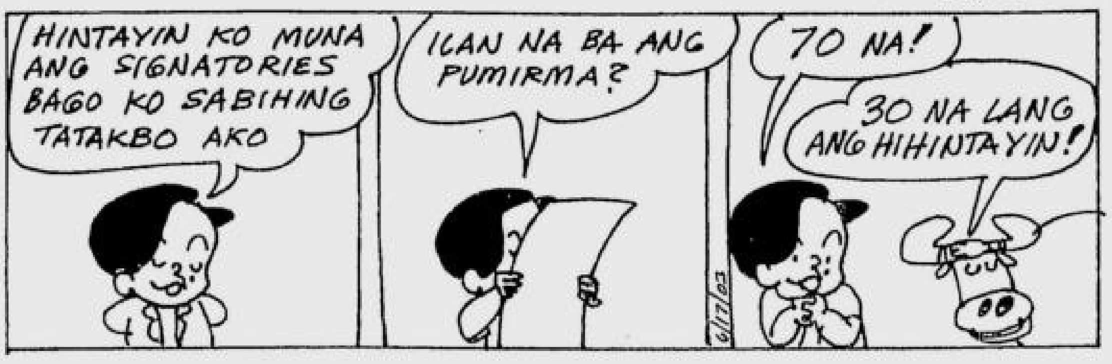
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU READING?
A LEAKED COPY OF THE NEW HARRY POTTER BOOK.
I DOWNLOADED IT FROM THE INTERNET. IT'S GOTTA BE LEGIT, RIGHT? "HARRY POTTER GOES TO PHOENIX"?
I THOUGHT IT WAS "HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX."
YOU SURE?
"THE SUN SHONE LIKE A GOLDEN SNITCH AS HARRY ENTERED ARIZONA..."
I WISH WE'D HAD THIS CONVERSATION 850 PAGES AGO.

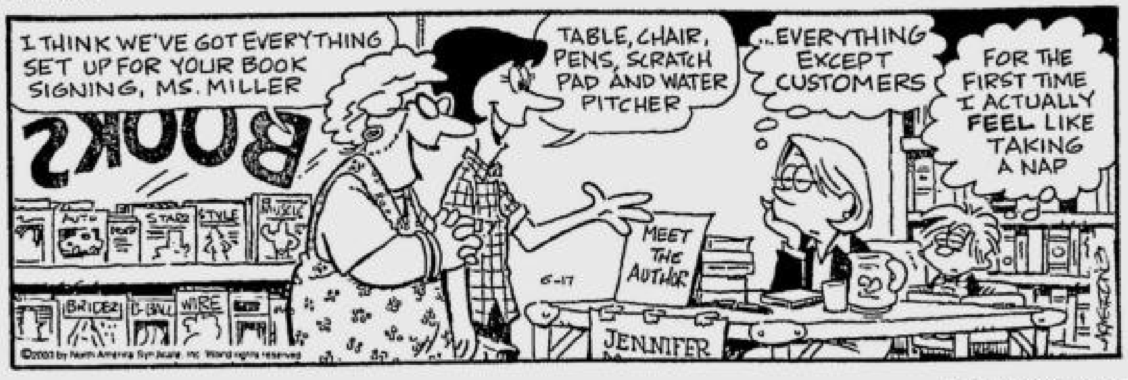
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINTAYIN KO MUNA ANG SIGNATORIES BAGO KO SABIHING TATAKBO AKO
ICAN NA BA ANG PUMIRMA?
70 NA!
30 NA LANG ANG HIHINTAYIN!
6/17/03

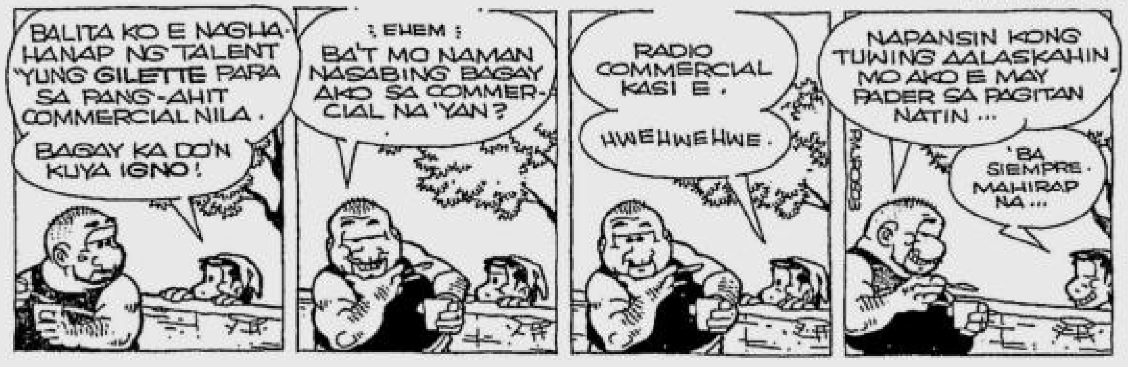
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I THINK WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING SET UP FOR YOUR BOOK SIGNING, MS. MILLER
TABLE, CHAIR, PENS, SCRATCH PAD AND WATER PITCHER
...EVERYTHING EXCEPT CUSTOMERS
FOR THE FIRST TIME I ACTUALLY FEEL LIKE TAKING A NAP
BOOKS
MEET THE AUTHOR
JENNIFER
6-17

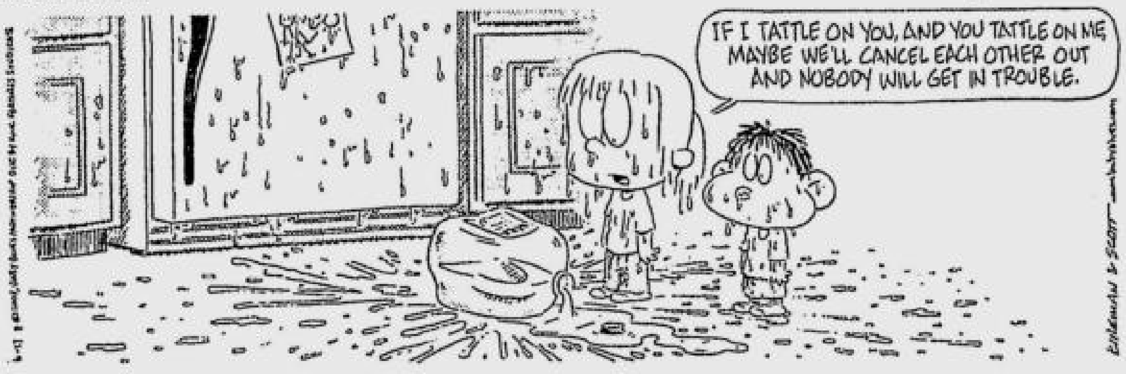
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BALITA KO E NAGHAHANAP NG TALENT 'YUNG GILETTE PARA SA PANG-AHIT COMMERCIAL NILA.
BAGAY KA DO'N KUYA IGNO!
EHEM
BA'T MO NAMAN NASABING BAGAY AKO SA COMMERCIAL NA 'YAN?
RADIO COMMERCIAL KASI E.
HWEHWEHWE.
NAPANSIN KONG TUWING AALASKAHIN MO AKO E MAY PADER SA PAGITAN NATIN...
'BA SIEMPRE. MAHIRAP NA...

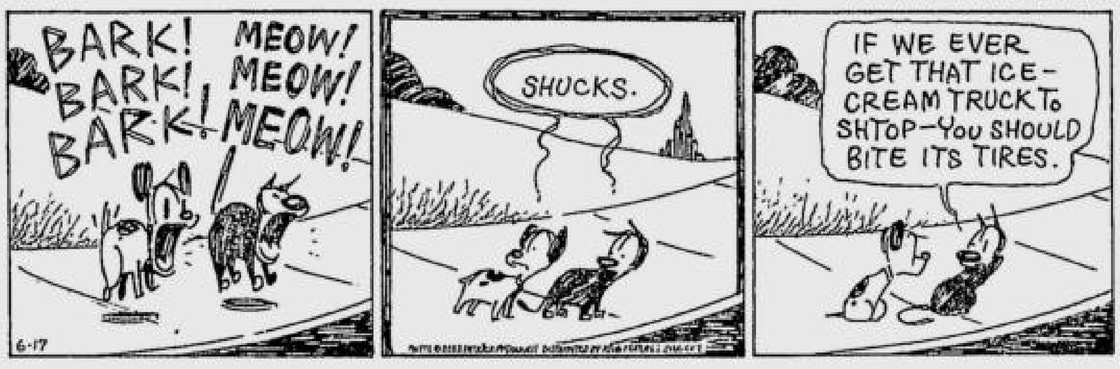
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IF I TATTLE ON YOU, AND YOU TATTLE ON ME MAYBE WE'LL CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT AND NOBODY WILL GET IN TROUBLE.

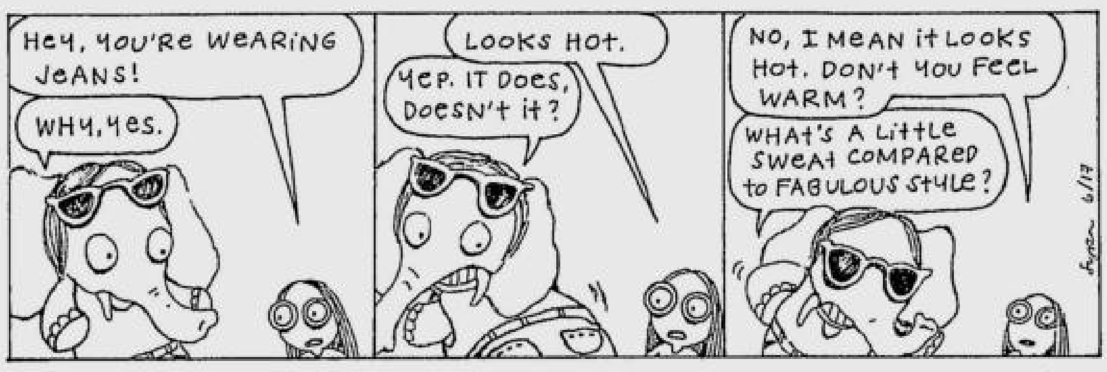
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BARK! BARK! BARK!
MEOW! MEOW! MEOW!
SHUCKS.
IF WE EVER GET THAT ICE-CREAM TRUCK To SHTOP—You SHOULD BITE ITS TIRES.
6-17

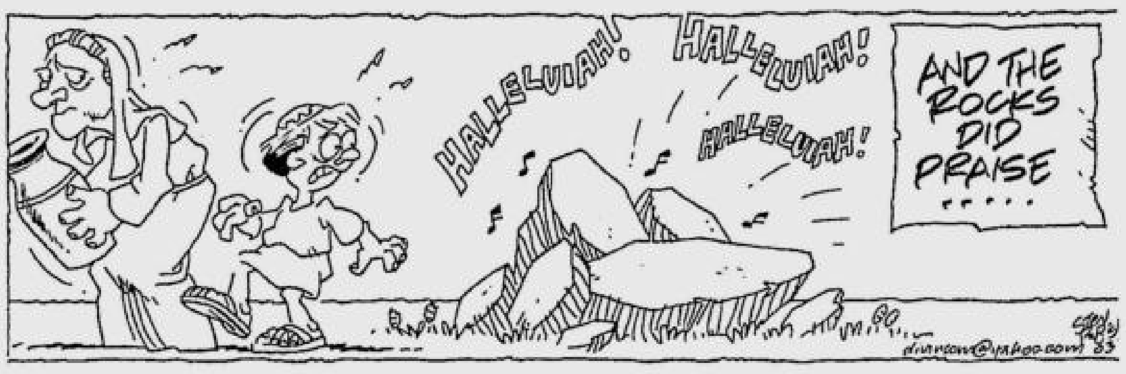
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, You're WeARinG JeANS!
WHY, Yes.
Looks Hot.
Yep. It Does, Doesn't it?
No, I MeAN it Looks Hot. Don't You FeeL WARM?
WHAt's A Little SweAt COMPARED to FABULOUS style?
6/17

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HALLELUIAH!
HALLELUIAH!
HALLELUIAH!
AND THE ROCKS DID PRAISE .....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your lively style always influences others. You are more capable than you often appear. As you grow older, you develop excellent money skills. Your personal charm always endears you to others. You make an excellent parent. The year ahead focuses strongly on your closest relationships and partnerships. Some will end; some will begin. **Birthdate of:** Brian Benben, actor; Paul McCartney, musician; Isabella Rossellini, actress

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A friend might confuse you today. In all likelihood, someone wants your sympathy. It doesn't hurt to be sympathetic, but be careful before you promise anything.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If instructions or orders from your boss are vague and confusing, make no assumptions. Clarify everything before you go forward. What is expected of you is not entirely clear today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an extremely powerful time for you. Nevertheless, matters connected with publishing, higher education and the law are not entirely clear. Be careful before you make important decisions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Feelings of sympathy prompt you to want to help someone today. However, you must be realistic. Do what you can, but don't give away the farm.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You easily pick up on the moods of people around you today, especially close friends and partners. Because of this, avoid negative situations. You need to buffer yourself from whatever is depressing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Communications with others are not entirely clear at work today. It is easy to misinterpret someone, or in turn, to be misinterpreted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Because your ability to fantasize is excellent today, you will appreciate poetry, art and literature more than usual. Give yourself an opportunity to enjoy the creative efforts of yourself and others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't get carried away with the problems of a family member today. In fact, if someone needs help, you need to be strong. Listen with sympathy, but remained objective and detached.

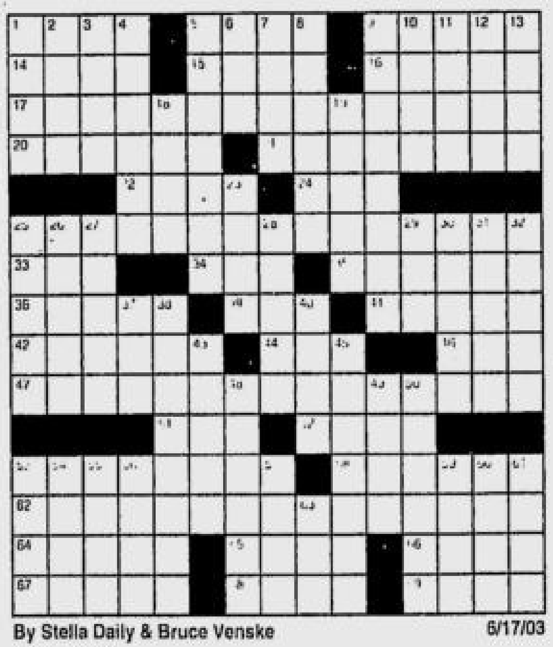
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You can't help daydreaming and fantasizing today. You would rather sit somewhere and let your mind drift away into your own private world. (Good luck.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be careful about spending money today. You're tempted to go overboard buying luxuries. You might want to make a distinction between what you need and what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Without knowing it, your actions might confuse others today. It's as if people have Vaseline on their lenses when they look at you now. This is not your fault; it just happens.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's easy to be deceived about something today. Do not fall into the trap of feeling like a victim. If you think that you "always" or "never" get something, beware.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stella Daily & Bruce Venske
Madison, WI
6/17/03

ACROSS
1 Obscuring hazes
5 Rob of "St. Elmo's Fire"
9 Incense
14 Ready, willing and __
15 Support for glasses
16 Tenancy period
17 Hand
20 Suggest additional revisions
21 Yakked on and on
22 Saroyan's "My Name Is __"
24 Suffix for approximations
25 Hand
33 Poet's preposition
34 Matter-of-fact
35 Saudi __
36 Group of trees
39 Stately tree
41 Explode like Pinatubo
42 "__ Company"
44 PAU's successor
46 I told you so!
47 Hand
51 Velvet end?
52 Skunk River state
53 Skunks
58 Select a pseudonym
62 Hand
64 City on the Nile
65 Genealogical chart
66 Discharge
67 David of CNN
68 Switch positions
69 Hamilton bills

DOWN
1 "M*A*S*H" co-star
2 Shawm's offspring
3 Adhesive stuff
4 "Where the Wild Things Are" writer
5 Workout wear
6 Klutz
7 Present packaging
8 __ de corps
9 Playing with a full deck
10 Fastidious
11 France, once
12 In __ (in actual being)
13 Marsh grass
18 Desperate
19 Former Turkish title
23 Additional
25 Adam and Mae
26 Correct: pref.
27 Upgrade guns
28 Hose material
29 A ways away
30 Mistreat
31 Mature
32 Paired for reproduction
37 Born in Boulogne
38 Probe
40 Creche trio
43 Bundle of items
45 Floors
48 All told
49 "The Virginian" author Wister
50 Surgical knife
53 Walk the floor
54 Town on the Firth of Lorn
55 Clark's love
56 Continental dollar
57 Wave action
59 Lamenter's words
60 Chow __
61 Guessed figs.
63 Ump's colleague

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	L	F	■	S	A	N	S	■	S	T	R	A	P
O	M	O	C	■	S	U	E	T	■	O	R	O	N	O
M	O	S	S	■	N	E	W	O	R	L	E	A	N	S
B	R	A	S	S	■	L	Y	R	E	■	X	R	A	Y
S	E	N	I	L	E	■	O	M	I	T	■	■	■	■
■	■	G	L	I	D	E	R	■	D	R	A	P	E	D
D	E	F	■	M	I	N	K	■	■	O	N	I	C	E
A	T	L	A	N	T	A	■	H	O	U	S	T	O	N
D	E	E	R	E	■	■	S	A	K	S	■	T	N	T
A	S	S	I	S	T	■	E	G	R	E	S	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	A	R	A	■	A	R	A	B	I	A
T	R	O	T	■	R	I	T	Z	■	S	T	U	N	G
W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N	■	E	R	G	O
A	S	H	E	N	■	E	L	L	A	■	E	G	E	R
S	P	A	N	K	■	L	E	A	P	■	N	H	R	A

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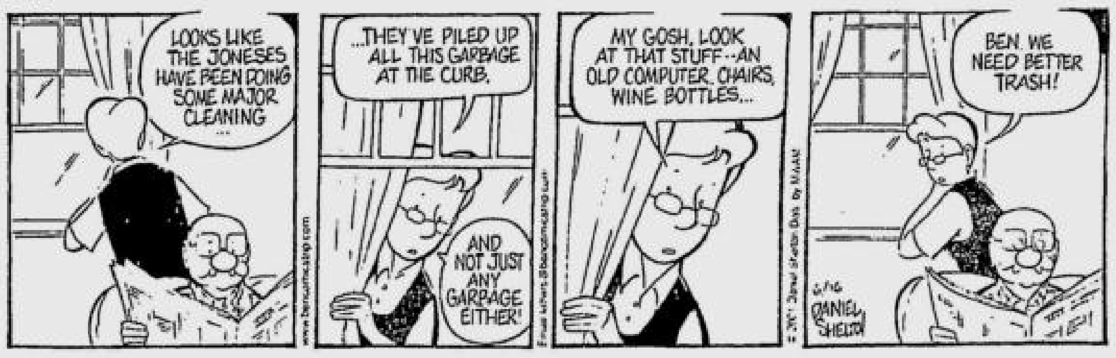
6/17/03

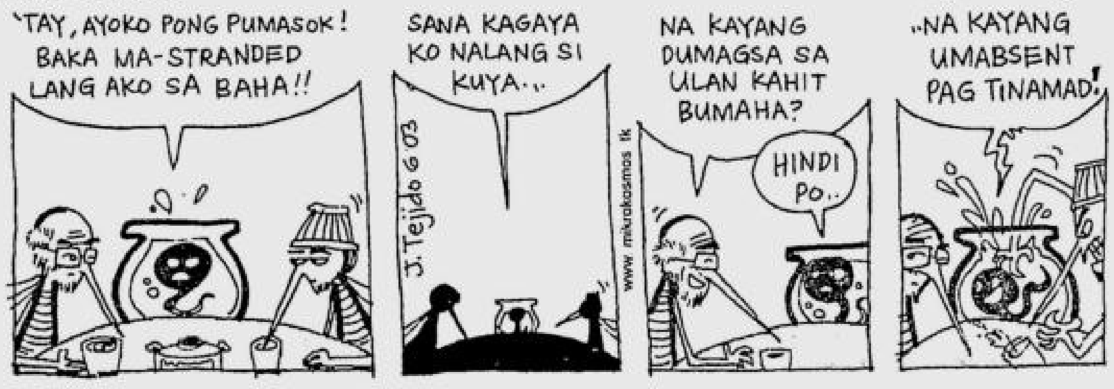
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOKS LIKE THE JONESES HAVE BEEN DOING SOME MAJOR CLEANING ...
...THEY'VE PILED UP ALL THIS GARBAGE AT THE CURB.
AND NOT JUST ANY GARBAGE EITHER!
MY GOSH, LOOK AT THAT STUFF--AN OLD COMPUTER, CHAIRS, WINE BOTTLES...
BEN, WE NEED BETTER TRASH!

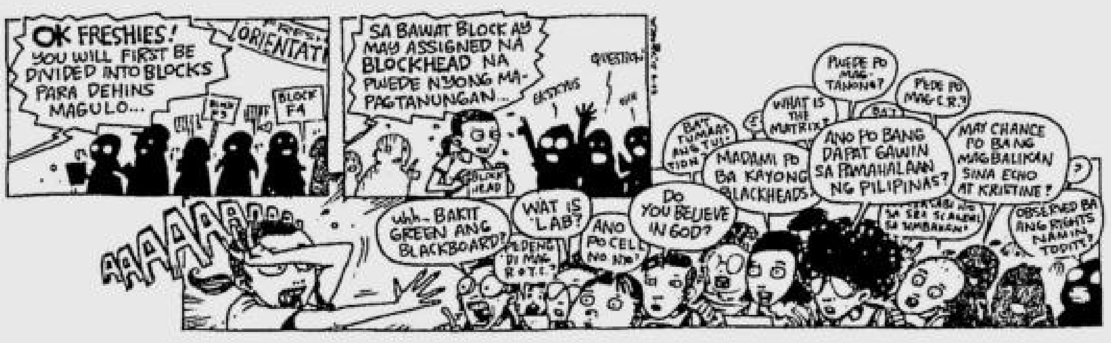
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


'TAY, AYOKO PONG PUMASOK! BAKA MA-STRANDED LANG AKO SA BAHA!!
SANA KAGAYA KO NALANG SI KUYA...
J. Tejido 6 03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
NA KAYANG DUMAGSA SA ULAN KAHIT BUMAHA?
HINDI PO..
..NA KAYANG UMABSENT PAG TINAMAD!

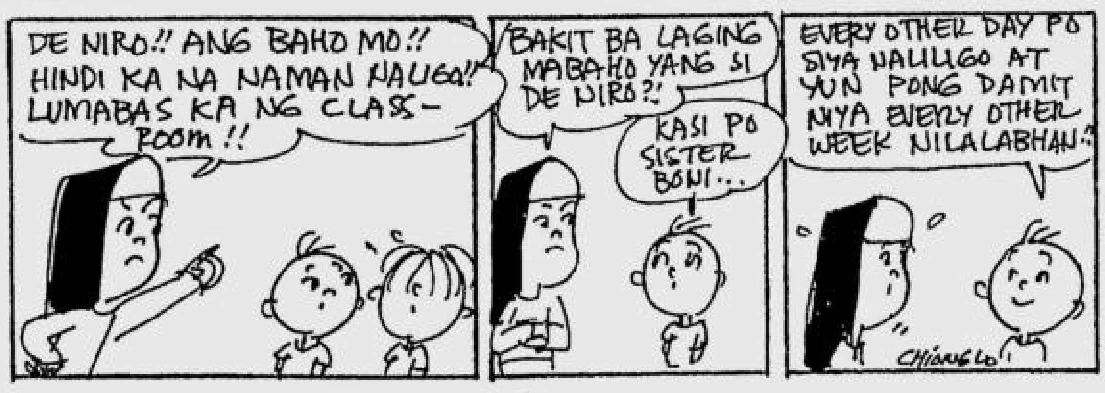
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


OK FRESHIES! YOU WILL FIRST BE DIVIDED INTO BLOCKS PARA DEHINS MAGULO...
ORIENTATI
BLOCK F4
SA BAWAT BLOCK AY MAY ASSIGNED NA BLOCKHEAD NA PWEDE NYONG MAPAGTANUNGAN...
QUESTION
BLOCKHEAD
AAAAAAAAAA
WAH.. BAKIT GREEN ANG BLACKBOARD?
WAT IS "LAB"?
ANO PO CELL NO NIO?
DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?
MADAMI PO BA KAYONG BLACKHEADS?
WHAT IS THE MATRIX?
PUEDE PO MAG-TANONG?
PEDE PO MAG C.R.?
ANO PO BANG DAPAT GAWIN SA PAMAHALAAN NG PILIPINAS?
MAY CHANCE PO BANG MAGBALIKAN SINA ECHO AT KRISTINE?
OBSERVED BA ANG RIGHTS NAMIN DITO?

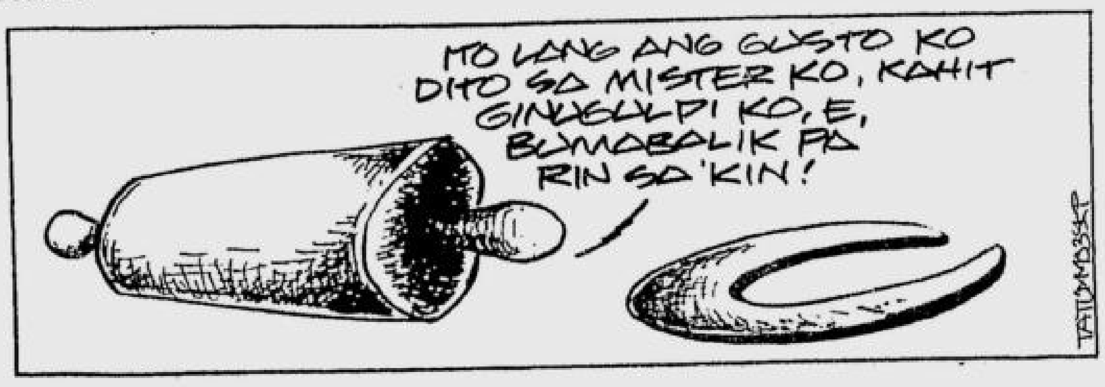
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO!! ANG BAHO MO!! HINDI KA NA NAMAN NALIGO!! LUMABAS KA NG CLASSROOM!!
BAKIT BA LAGING MABAHO YANG SI DE NIRO?!
KASI PO SISTER BONI...
EVERY OTHER DAY PO SIYA NALILIGO AT YUN PONG DAMIT NIYA EVERY OTHER WEEK NILALABHAN!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ITO LANG ANG GUSTO KO DITO SA MISTER KO, KAHIT GINUGULPI KO, E, BUMABALIK PA RIN SA'KIN!

Does the Bible contain hidden codes that predict the future?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

WHEN the United States invaded Iraq on March 20, 2003 without the mandate of the United Nations Security Council, on the belief that Iraq is keeping weapons of mass destruction aimed at America and the free world, a lot of people thought it was the start of World War III.

I received a number of text messages on my mobile phone asking me precisely that question. I replied that I did not think the US-Iraq war was the beginning of the Third World War because the Bible Code predicted that this war will take place either in the year 2000 or 2006.

Sure enough, when the Iraq war ended a month later, it did not trigger a world war as feared. The US soon after declared completion of its mission of toppling down Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, with a promise to deliver Iraq back to the Iraqi people and rebuild the cities it has destroyed.

What were these coded messages in the Bible? According to the astonishing discoveries by Israeli mathematicians and computer experts, the first five books of the original Hebrew version of the Bible, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch, contain coded messages of major future events, including World War III.

The incredible discovery of the secret coded messages in the bible is dramatically told in "The Bible Code," written by journalist Michael Drosnin, formerly of the Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal.

"This book is the first full account of a scientific discovery that may change the world, told by a skeptical secular reporter who became part of the story,"says the book's inside jacket.

"The three-thousand-year-old Bible Code," it continues, "foretells events that happened thousands of years after the Bible was written. It foresaw both Kennedy assassinations, the Oklahoma City bombing, the election of Bill Clinton—everything from World War II to Watergate, from the Holocaust to Hiroshima, from the moon landing to the collision of a comet with Jupiter.

"In a few dramatic cases, detailed predictions were found in advance—and the events then happened exactly as predicted. The date the gulf war would begin was found weeks before the war started. The date of the Jupiter collision was found months before the blast.

"The author of this book, investigative reporter Michael Drosnin, himself found the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin predicted in the Bible more than a year before the murder—and personally warned the Prime Minister."

When the assassination did take place as predicted, Drosnin was asked by the Israeli government to brief the new prime minister and its famed intelligence agency, the Mossad.

The existence of the Bible Code was discovered by Israel's top mathematician, Dr. Eliyahu Rips, one of the world's leading experts in group theory, a field of mathematics that underlies quantum psychics.

The discovery was confirmed by well-known mathematicians from Harvard, Yale and Hebrew University. Then it was replicated by a senior code-breaker at the US Defense Department, and passed through levels of secular peer review of a leading American math journal.

All of them confirmed that there exists a code in the Bible that reveals future events. Drosnin himself said he did not believe it until Rabin was assassinated as predicted.

How the secret code was discovered

Although the Bible had been written thousands of years ago, the code was meant to be broken or discovered only during the 20th century, with the advent of the computer. It could not have been possible otherwise, because the decoding consisted of analyzing a great mass of data that only a computer could do.

Zecharia Sitchin, in his book "The Cosmic Code," explains the process that led to the discovery of the hidden meaning in the Bible:

"If you list all the 304,805 letters in the Pentateuch in sequence, and arrange them in 'blocs' that segment those letters into sections consisting of a certain number of lines, and each line a certain number of letters, then choose a skipping method, certain letters will form words that, unbelievable as it sounds, spell out predictions for our time and for all time, such as, the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin of Israel, or the discovery of the theory of relativity by Albert Einstein…

"The letter forming the predictive words end up sometimes lying next to each other, sometimes spaced out (with spacing varied and flexible), sometimes read vertically, sometimes horizontally or diagonally, sometimes backward, sometimes from down up."

Because the seal in the Bible could not be opened until the computer was invented, even Isaac Newton could not do it, said Rips, although he tried. "It had to be opened with a computer." In other words the Hebrew Bible is a computer program!

According to Drosnin, "The word computer appears six times in the plain text of the Bible, hidden within the Hebrew word for thought. Four of the six anachronistic appearances of 'computer' are the words of Exodus that describe the building of the Covenant, the famous 'Lost Ark' that carried the Ten Commandments."

World War III in 2006?

Drosnin said he checked every year in the hundred years in the Bible, and only two years were clearly encoded with "World War," the years 2000 and 2006. The same two years were also encoded with "atomic holocaust."

According to Drosnin, "the year 2000 is encoded twice, but 2006 is mathematically the best match. 'Atomic holocaust' and 'World War' are encoded together. The next war, according to the code, will be fought with weapons of mass destruction the world has never seen used in battle before. World War II ended with Hiroshima, but now there are at least 50,000 nuclear weapons, from atomic artillery shells to multi-warhead ballistic missiles. Each can destroy a whole city. The whole world could be obliterated within a few hours."

After the invasion of Iraq by America ended, the Americans started looking for Saddam Hussein and his supposed weapons of mass destruction which was made the reason for the invasion. As of this writing, however, neither Saddam Hussein, nor his weapons of mass destruction, has yet been found.

Are the people of the Philippines prepared for World War III in 2006?

Note: Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8pm.

> The books known as the Torah contain coded messages of major future events, including World War III

Oil can fight SARS?

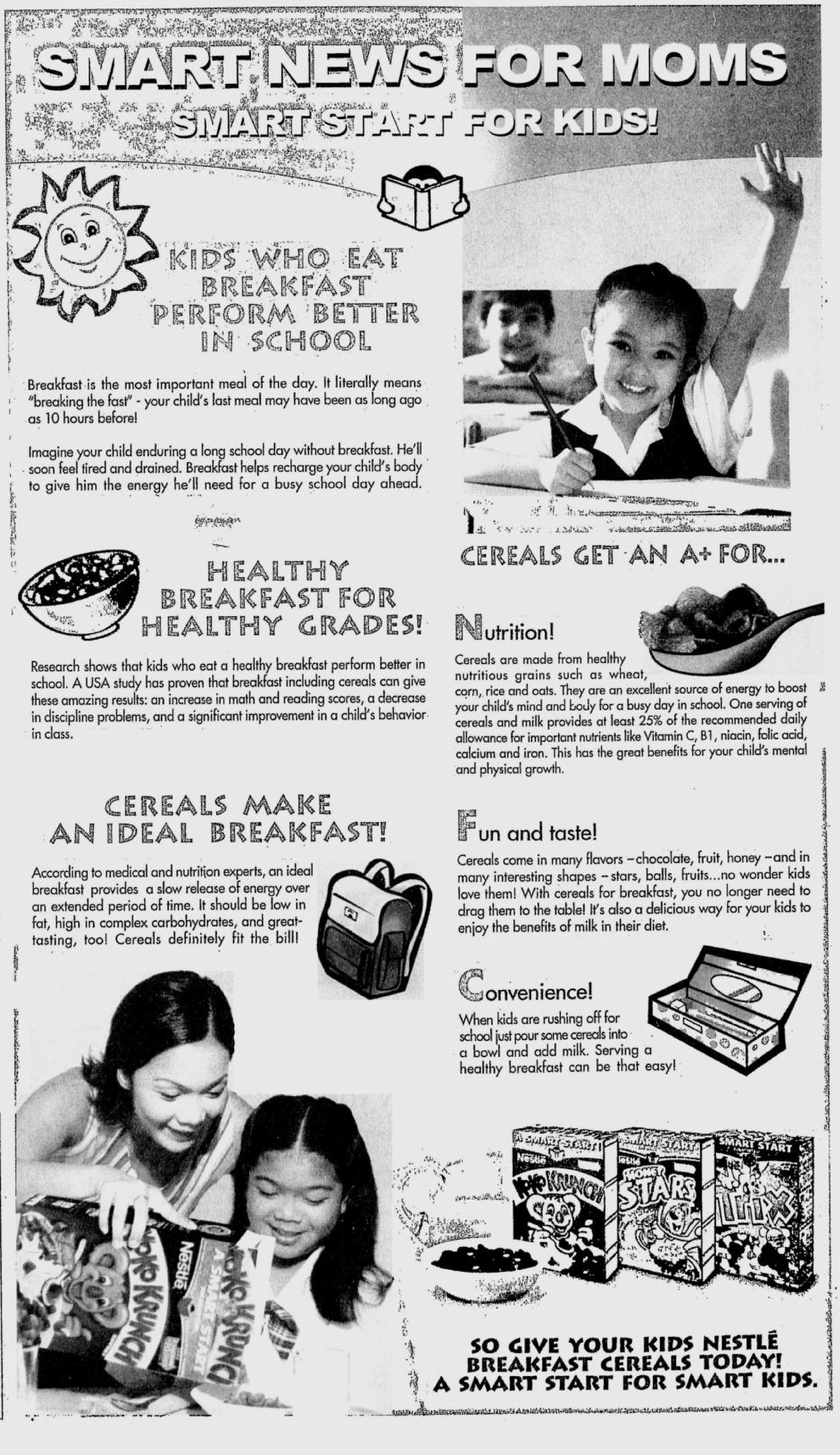
THE "GLORIA Disinfectant Herbal Oil," named after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, is a coconut oil-based formula that may be useful in fighting SARS or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Benjamin G. Samson, who formulated the treatment, said the coconut oil base had strong anti-viral properties.

Research on the medicinal value of coconut oil has been going on. Among the more prominent researchers is University of the Philippines Emeritus Professor Conrado Dayrit, father of Health Secretary Manuel S. Dayrit.

Aside from coconut oil, Samson claimed another active ingredient of the Gloria Disinfectant Herbal Oil eliminated bacteria in the human body, and relieved pain, hair loss, wrinkles, and fungal growth.

Call 374-3960 or visit 10 Paraiso St., San Francisco Del Monte, QC.



SMART NEWS FOR MOMS
SMART START FOR KIDS!

KIDS WHO EAT BREAKFAST PERFORM BETTER IN SCHOOL

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It literally means "breaking the fast" - your child's last meal may have been as long ago as 10 hours before!

Imagine your child enduring a long school day without breakfast. He'll soon feel tired and drained. Breakfast helps recharge your child's body to give him the energy he'll need for a busy school day ahead.

HEALTHY BREAKFAST FOR HEALTHY GRADES!

Research shows that kids who eat a healthy breakfast perform better in school. A USA study has proven that breakfast including cereals can give these amazing results: an increase in math and reading scores, a decrease in discipline problems, and a significant improvement in a child's behavior in class.

CEREALS MAKE AN IDEAL BREAKFAST!

According to medical and nutrition experts, an ideal breakfast provides a slow release of energy over an extended period of time. It should be low in fat, high in complex carbohydrates, and great-tasting, too! Cereals definitely fit the bill!

CEREALS GET AN A+ FOR...

Nutrition!

Cereals are made from healthy nutritious grains such as wheat, corn, rice and oats. They are an excellent source of energy to boost your child's mind and body for a busy day in school. One serving of cereals and milk provides at least 25% of the recommended daily allowance for important nutrients like Vitamin C, B1, niacin, folic acid, calcium and iron. This has the great benefits for your child's mental and physical growth.

Fun and taste!

Cereals come in many flavors – chocolate, fruit, honey – and in many interesting shapes – stars, balls, fruits...no wonder kids love them! With cereals for breakfast, you no longer need to drag them to the table! It's also a delicious way for your kids to enjoy the benefits of milk in their diet.

Convenience!

When kids are rushing off for school just pour some cereals into a bowl and add milk. Serving a healthy breakfast can be that easy!

SO GIVE YOUR KIDS NESTLÉ BREAKFAST CEREALS TODAY!
A SMART START FOR SMART KIDS.

Night cravings: the after-dinner horror

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THE CATCHY title of this week's column was the heading of an e-mail sent to me by a reader a few weeks ago. Aside from grabbing my attention with her creative caption, I decided to write about her problem because it is a common one for women. Her description of her nightly ordeal also brought back memories for me because I am a long-time survivor of the "after-dinner horror." Here is her dilemma in her own words:

"I am a gym addict and maintain a very healthy diet. However, I am having problems with my late-night cravings, somewhere around 10 p.m., where I have already put my kids to sleep, and I wake up just to eat. I may be full or partially hungry, but regardless of my stomach status, I tend to eat anything, but most of the time the ever-deadly sweets, bread, and cookies kill me at night. It is non-stop tasting or pinching of bread or cookies, which eventually turns out into a bingeing spree. I can't seem to find the food that will pacify all these cravings, and end all the non-stop eating. Please feature something in your article regarding pacifying cravings at night, or at any time of the day, what to eat, what to do if it happens, and how to avoid it."

Out-of-control late-night bingeing, specifically for carbohydrates, sweets and chocolate, is typically a female problem, though I do know a few men who struggle with it. Women are the ones who are mostly affected because they tend to diet severely and use food as an emotional outlet. During my nighttime refrigerator-raiding days, I was dieting while undergoing a confusing time in my life.

How dieting can lead to night bingeing

Dieting (I use the word to mean restrictive dieting) can lead to night bingeing because of feelings of deprivation, an "all-or-nothing" attitude, true physical hunger, and a search for flavor.

I remember reading about an experiment back in the 1950s that involved putting young army recruits on semi-starvation diets (quite similar to what a lot of women do to themselves). The men experienced powerful night cravings and vivid dreams of food.

The "all-or-nothing" attitude is exemplified in this typical scenario: The dieter starts her day feeling in control of herself and her diet. She is determined to lose weight even if it means practically starving herself. She skips breakfast, eats very little for lunch, but becomes ravenous by mid-afternoon and succumbs to cookies that are passed around in the office. She gets mad at herself for falling into temptation but her resolve has already been weakened by the cookie incident so she eats more than she feels she should for dinner. Besides, hunger is gnawing at her because she really hasn't eaten much the whole day. By now she is rationalizing that since she has "broken" her diet she might as well go all the way (this is where the bingeing comes in). As she is stuffing her face with whatever food there is at home, she resolves to start the diet again tomorrow. She swears to herself that she will be "good" this time. But of course, even if she may succeed in being a "good girl" for several days, she falls back into the bingeing pattern because she is fighting a losing battle against the primal urge to eat and the basic need to derive pleasure from eating.

Even women who are not dieting but are eating a "healthy diet" can find themselves in this predicament because they are too hard on themselves. They may eat food that is healthy but is personally detestable. Sure, cottage cheese is good for you but if it reminds you of paste, you will eventually rebel. Constantly eating food that is bland and tasteless can make you have strong cravings that you can't seem to satisfy. What your deprived taste buds are looking for is the flavor that is missing from your daily meals.

It's relatively easy to deny yourself in the early part of the day because there are so many distractions at home, school, or work. But nighttime is a different story because the hunger pangs or desire for flavor have built up to a peak and you have fewer distractions to keep your mind from food.

Exercising and dieting

Matters become even worse if you exercise and diet at the same time. Again, I use the word "diet" to mean skipping meals or eating only crackers for lunch. Your body's need for calories will usually manifest as late-night cravings. Even well-meaning gym addicts can inadvertently trigger powerful cravings if they aren't getting enough calories to fuel their strenuous workouts.

Food as substance abuse

Women are notorious for using bread, cookies, and the like as an emotional escape or as an outlet for stress. Food has been called the good girl's drug. While some women may abuse alcohol, drugs, gambling and sex in an effort to dull their emotional pain, the majority of women turn to sweets. Food is legal, easily available, and socially acceptable.

Women rarely have cravings for meat or savory dishes like a fish and tomato casserole. The cravings are almost always for chocolate, cake, desserts, cookies and bread. There is still no definite answer why these are the most craved foods but one of the theories is that carbohydrates stimulate the production of serotonin, a feel-good brain chemical that partly controls mood.

If you turn to food for comfort, it doesn't automatically mean that you have a deep emotional issue like a sexually-abused childhood. It can simply mean that you are stressed at work or school, you are undergoing a minor difficulty in your marriage, or a willful child is stretching your patience to the limit.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Late-night snacking as a habit

Some people have a hard time stopping themselves from snacking at night because they developed the habit as a child. The habit of snacking while watching TV is an especially hard one to break because you have been conditioned to only enjoy TV if your hand is dipping into a bag of M & M's at the same time. A friend of mine told me that late-night snacking is a special Waterloo for her because her mother's bedroom was a veritable *sari-sari* store with a refrigerator full of chocolates and ice cream and a closet amply stocked with all kinds of snacks.

How to control night cravings

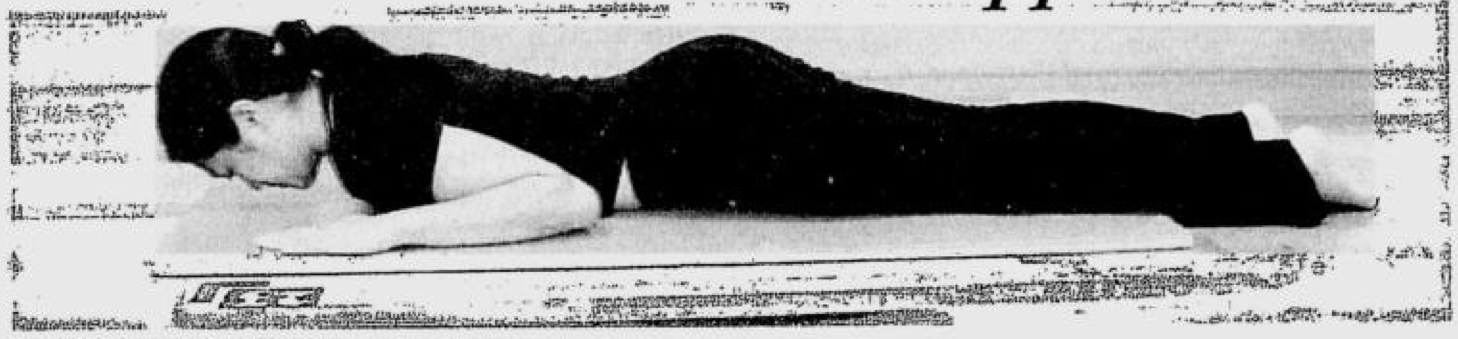
The battle against late-night cravings will not be won overnight but if you start applying the tips listed below and finding out which work for you, the late-night cravings monster can be tamed.

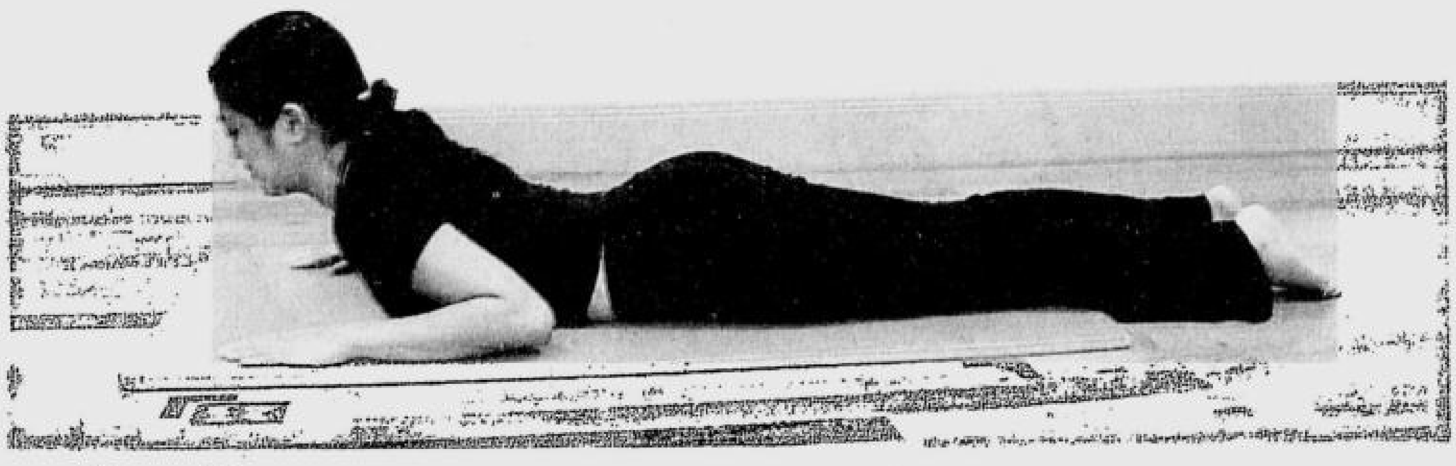
- Do not diet by skipping meals or starving yourself especially if you are exercising. It is almost impossible to control night cravings if you lack calories. You can still lose weight by eating three meals plus two snacks (one in mid-morning and the other mid-afternoon) if you concentrate on large portions of vegetables and moderate portions of lean protein, whole grains, beans, fruits and nuts. Eat very small portions of deep-fried food and refined carbohydrates like white bread, sweets and desserts. Be careful also of high-sugar drinks like juice, iced tea or lemonade mixes.
- If possible, clear the battlefield (your home) of all temptations. If your household will revolt at the idea, at least get rid of your personal favorites. Hide the rest at the back of the refrigerator or at the back of your kitchen cupboards inside plastic or dark glass containers so you can't see them.
- An opposite strategy is to purposely plan to have a "forbidden" treat at night. By giving yourself permission to enjoy your favorite indulgence, you reduce the likelihood of losing control and eating everything else in sight. To make this strategy work, sit down somewhere quiet and slowly savor each bite. If you eat it while watching TV or while standing up at the kitchen counter, it won't satisfy you.
- If you have night cravings in spite of eating well, consider the possibility that you are emotionally hungry. Be honest and evaluate whether or not you are really happy with the way your life is going. Psychological therapy might be just what you need. Are you undergoing a stressful period? What can you do to lessen the stress?
- Keep your hands busy at night to avoid snacking. I took up embroidery and cross-stitch as part of my strategy to beat bulimia and night cravings. Some people do crochet or knitting. Not only can't you sew and eat at the same time, you are also distracted from thoughts of food. Plus, working with your hands is quite soothing and therapeutic so it can also be a form of stress release. My initial project took me a few years to finish (I made the novice mistake of choosing a large design and using cross-stitch thread when I should have used crewel yarn). It now hangs in one of my parent's guest rooms. For me, it will always symbolize how I conquered my eating disorder. If sewing isn't your thing, look for other crafts. Try origami, painting, clay sculpting or artificial flower-making. Teenagers can make braided or beaded bracelets or anklets.
- If you are very "oral" and need to keep your mouth busy, try sipping warm non-caffeinated herbal tea like chamomile, peppermint or ginger. Many people find this helps them calm down and reflect on how their day went without feeling anxious.
- According to Stephen Gullo, author of "Thin Tastes Better," cravings are like waves that rise up quickly and fall down just as fast. He says that sometimes the most powerful way to beat a food craving is to take the focus off the craving for 15 minutes. Use the time to fix your closet, do your nails, finish your photo album, or organize your hand bag. Gullo says not only will you finish long-forgotten projects, you will usually forget about your craving.
- Linda Crawford, an eating behavior specialist, says to disarm your cravings with the Five D's: Delay at least 10 to 15 minutes before you eat so that your action is conscious, not impulsive. Distance yourself from the food. Distract yourself by engaging in an activity that requires concentration and is not compatible with eating. If you still crave the food, determine how important it really is for you to eat the craved food and how much you really want it. Decide what amount is reasonable and appropriate, eat it slowly, and enjoy without guilt.

For more information, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com and search for "Are you an emotional overeater," "Why people have food cravings," and "How to handle food cravings."

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Unsupported Cobra





THIS yoga-inspired exercise strengthens the muscles of the back and stretches the muscles of the chest and abdomen.

Equipment:
Exercise mat or yoga mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down on your stomach with your legs together and your arms bent, with your hands directly under your shoulder joint.
2. Keep your face an inch or two off the floor.
3. Contract the muscles in your back and lift your upper body.
4. Hold the position for the desired amount of time without pushing down on your hands.
5. Slowly lower down to the starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Lengthen your neck and press your shoulders away from your ears as you contract the back muscles and lift the upper body.
2. Do not use your arms at any time during the exercise to help lift or lower your upper body. That's why the exercise is called the "unsupported cobra."
3. Do not throw your head backwards when you lift the upper body. The head and neck should just "come along for the ride" when you contract your back muscles.
4. You can modify the exercise by keeping your legs apart instead of together. This lessens pressure on the lower back.

Repetitions:

Hold the position for three to five breaths. One breath means inhaling and exhaling. Make sure that your inhalation and exhalation are consistent in length and depth.

Filipino smokers starting at very young age

From page D1

ulate the use, sale and advertisements of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

It will prohibit and penalize tobacco smoking among minors, or teenagers below 18 years old. Both smoking minors and the cigarette vendors or the distributors are criminally liable.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said there was a pressing need to pass the bill.

So far, the only law that has something to do with smoking is the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999. The law prohibits "smoking inside a public building or an enclosed public place including public vehicles and other means of transport or in any enclosed area outside of one's residence, private place of work or any duly designated smoking area."

"Smoking is society's problem so (there is a) need (for) unity and cooperation among government sectors, medical professionals, NGOs, advertising and the media," says Dr. David.

Studies show that while the government earned some P21.4 billion from the sale of tobacco, it spent almost P42 billion for the health care of Filipinos with tobacco-related diseases.

"The poor especially needs information on tobacco control and legislation. People must learn to support policies on comprehensive tobacco control," says Dr. David.

Statistics show that 20 percent of the income of Filipino families goes to tobacco. *"Ang paninigarilyo ay* cancer *sa baga at sa bulsa. Lalong nagpapahirap sa mahihirap,"* stresses Dr. David.

Solutions

Health professionals believe that education helps lower smoking rates.

The Department of Health has launched campaigns to ban smoking, set up services to handle tobacco-related problems and conducted other health programs to regulate the use of tobacco.

It launched the "Yosi Kadiri" campaign two years ago, focusing on the negative effects of smoking, but the campaign didn't have a lot of impact in the number of smokers in the country.

Now, the DOH is supporting the establishment of smoking-cessation clinics nationwide. These tobacco-cessation centers have counselors and health advisers conducting lectures among smokers who want to quit, especially minors.

"The fight against smoking is a marathon. It takes years to achieve positive results, (so it's always encouraging to see) any indication of progress in the struggle to regulate tobacco use," says Dr. David.

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com

QUIT
SMOKING
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SMOKING

ANTI-SMOKING campaigners call to ban smoking.